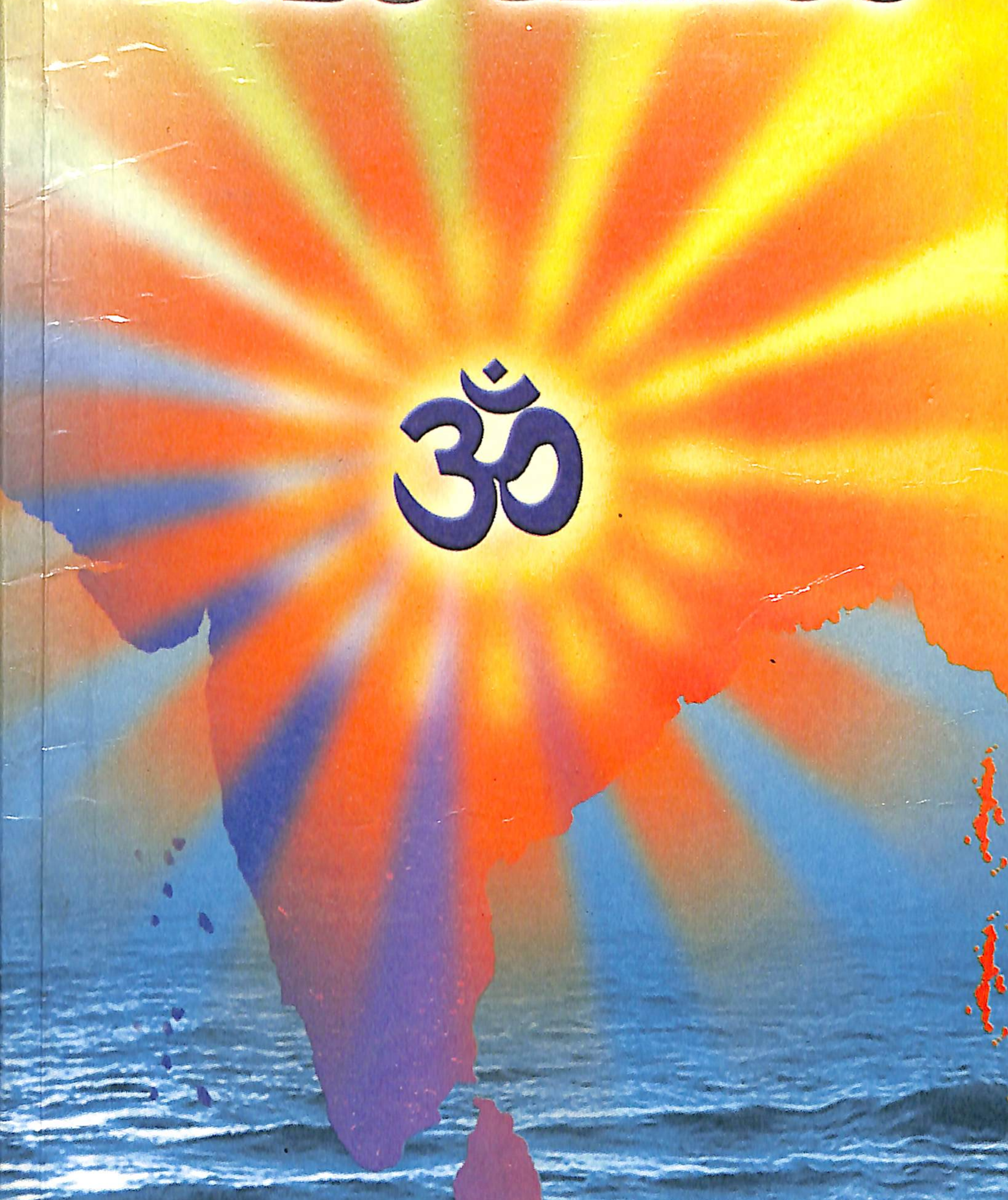
Glimpses of

HINDU GENIUS



Sakthi Pustaka Nilayam

"pradeepayema jagatsarvam"
(Enlighten the whole world)

Glimpses of

HINDU GENIUS

Published by

Sakthi Pusthaka Nilayam,
No.1, M.V. Naidu Street,
Chetput,
Chennai - 600 031.
Ph : 28360423, 28361049

Published on:
Ratha Saptami (February 15, 2005)

Price : **Rs. 25.00**

Printed by:
Madhava Mudhra
No. 3, M.V. Naidu Street,
Chetput,
Chennai - 600 031.
Ph: 28360874

INTRODUCTION

"Ancient but modern" – That is how the culture of Bharat is described and rightly so.

Shri Ravikumar, now joint organiser, Vishwa Vibhag, RSS, a pracharak dedicated to Hindu consolidation mission in South East Asian countries for decades, successfully establishes the efficacy and relevance of Hindu traditions with the help of a string of revealing anecdotes. In this book, he focusses on the fruits of the guru-shishya parampara aspect of Bharatiya culture, as enjoyed by people of the region.

As a reader goes through the material, he/she is sure to appreciate how Hindu Genius, in an unfettered ambience, shines forth proving its worth, transforming humanity that craves for a better world to live in.

Annexures I and II contain observations by Shri.S. Gurumurthy, All-Bharat Co-convenor, Swadeshi Jagaran Manch and a popular columnist. Annexure III tells us how the real issue has become not one of lower price but quality and scale - and how India is on the move to outmaneuver its US competitors on a stunning array of fronts, as stated in a new book.

Annexure IV is a bunch of summaries of news clippings gleaned from PANCHAAMIRTAM, circulated by Media Centre, Chennai. We thank and congratulate all those mediapersons who thoughtfully generated these news items.

Annexure V is an article by Shri. Masood Hasan, A Pakistani journalist, voluntarily conceding the superior nature of the Hindu Genius, as he sets out to cover an event.

Annexures VI, VII and VIII are but instances of the inexhaustible list of beneficial Hindu Genius.

It is an established fact that ancient Indians laid the foundation for not only the spiritual ideas but also for modern scientific achivements.

This book attempts to indicate that this ennobling and enriching tradition is very much alive even now.

- Publishers.

HINDU GENIUS IS UNIVERSAL

BY RAVIKUMAR

This is an expanded transcription of a lecture in Chennai at RSS Guru Pooja Utsav, in July 2004.

Today is a very auspicious day. We are connected back to one of the oldest traditions of human race. Nobody knows how old is Guru Pooja. In Sangh, we adore the Bhagwa Dhwaj (the saffron flag) as Guru. How old is Bhagwa Dhwaj?

Guru pooja and this Bhagwa or saffron flag go back to Vedas.

How old are the Vedas, no one knows. HMV, the gramophone company, had once published a pamphlet giving the history of the gramophone record. Gramophone was invented by Thomas Alwa Edison in the 19th Century. Edison, who had invented many other gadgets like incandescent lamp, had become a legend even in his own time. When he invented the gramophone record, which could record human voice for posterity, he wanted to record the voice of an eminent scholar on his first piece. He chose Prof. Max Muller of England, another great personality of the 19th century. He wrote to Max Muller saying, "I want to meet you and record your voice. When should I come?" Max Muller, who had great respect for Edison, asked him to come on a suitable time when most of the scholars of the Europe would be gathering in England. Accordingly, Edison took a ship and went to England. He was introduced to the audience. All cheered Edison's presence. Later, at the request of Edison, Max Muller came on the stage and spoke in front of the instrument. Then Edison went back to his laboratory and by afternoon came back with a disc. He played the gramophone disc from his instrument. The audience were thrilled to hear the voice of Max Muller from the instrument. They were glad that voices of great persons like Max Muller could be stored for the benefit of posterity.

After several rounds of applause and congratulations to Thomas Alwa Edison, Max Muller came to the stage and addressed the scholars and asked them, "You heard my original voice in the morning. Then you heard the same voice coming out from this instrument in the afternoon. Do you understand what I said in the morning or what you heard in the afternoon?" The audience fell silent because they could not understand the language in which Max Muller had spoken. It was 'Greek and Latin' to

them as they say. But had it been Greek or Latin, they would have definitely understood because they were from various parts of Europe. It was in a language which the European scholars had never heard. Max Muller then explained what he had spoken. He said that the language he spoke was Sanskrit and it was the first sloka of Rig Vida, which says ***"Agni Meele Purohitam"***. This was the first recorded public version on the gramophone plate.

Why did Max Muller choose this? Addressing the audience he said, "Vedas are the oldest text of the human race. And ***Agni Meele Purohitam*** is the first verse of Rig Veda. In the most primordial time when the people of Europe were jumping like Chimpanzees from tree to tree and branch to branch, when they did not know how to cover their bodies but with fig leaves, did not know agriculture and lived by hunting and lived in caves, at that remote past, Indians had attained high civilization and they gave to the world universal philosophies in the form of the Vedas."

Accroding to Max Muller, Vedas are the oldest texts of the human race. Thus, the antiquity of the Vedas is appreciated by Max Muller and HMV. Guru Pooja and the Bhagwa Dhwaj are part of this Vedic tradition. The HMV passage goes on to say that Max Muller asked Edison to play this passage once again, This time when ***Agni Meele Purohitam*** was re-played, the entire audience stood up in silence as a mark of respect for the ancient Hindu sages; this time there were no claps and there was only a mark of respect.

In the Vedas, we have the description of Bhagwa Dhwaj. Since the vedic period, we have the Guru Shishya parampara (tradition) as also the Guru Pooja. We can legitimately feel proud in that we belong to such a hoary past.

The coming together of the Guru and the Sishya has transformed the world. The discussions between the Guru and Sishya during the Vedic Age gave the world the sublime philosophy of the Upanishads. German scholar Schopenhauer (1788-1860) exclaimed: **"In the whole world, there is no study... so beneficial and so elevated as that of the Upanishads. It has been the solace of my life, it will be the solace of my death"**. Max Muller who translated the Upanishads, described them as **"the light of the morning; like the pure air of the mountains, so simple and so true, if one understood"**.

Five thousand years ago, on the Kurukshetra battlefield, Guru and Sishya in the persons of **Lord Krishna** and **Arjuna** discussed, debated and deliberated. The world is benefited by the book Bhagavad Gita. Gita forms the basis of Indian civilization. Many have propounded the Gita

from time to time. Even in the thick of India's freedom struggle against the British, at least four great freedom fighters. Lokmanya Tilak, Aurobindo Ghosh, Mahatma Gandhi and Vinoba Bhave felt it necessary to advocate Gita's sublime teachings.

Bhagavad Gita And Upanishads Inspire Europe

Upanishads and Bhagwad Gita have also transformed many civilizations around the world. The first prose translation of Gita by Charles Wilkins, published in London in 1785 AD under the aegis of the British East India Company, best conveyed this universal spirit. Warren Hastings, the British governor general of India between 1772 and 1785 AD, took pains to see that it is published in London by East India Company. In a pregnant preface to this book he wrote, **"Long after the British Empire has been wiped out from the face of the earth, the Gita will continue to give consolation and peace to mankind"**. By 1790's Bhagwad Gita was translated into French, German and Russian. Several centers for Sanskrit and Indian studies were opened all over Europe. By 1832 Gita was translated into Latin. Great romantic poets of Europe like Blake, Wordsworth, Coleridge, Shelley and Keats had not only read Wilkins' Gita, but imbibed its universal spirit. It found creative expression in their poems in the 18th and 19th centuries. The concept of rebirth, "Karma", universal soul, immortality, incarnation, God as omnipotent and omnipresent, spirit as the ultimate reality, true human selfhood as divine and divinely attuned thought as a positive force for good - all that Gita taught – fascinated romantic poets. Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (1749-1832), German write, and Leo Tolstoy of Russia emphasized the message of the Upanishads and Gita in most of their writings.

Bhagavad Gita In America

By early 1800s there were already scholars in America - variously called the Boston Brahmins, Transcendentalists, Concord Movement and New Thought Movement - discussing Bhagwad Gita and the Upanishads. Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882), Henry David Thoreau (1817-1862), Amos Bronson Alcott (1799-1888), Sarah Fuller (1810-1850), Walt Whitman (1819-1892), Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807-1882), Oliver Wendell Holmes (1809-1894), James Russel Lowell (1819-1891) who were the founding, seminal figures in the history of American thought and literary expressions drew enormously from Gita and Upanishads. Today, the concept given in Bhagwat Gita – as the duty bound performance – is attracting the attention of academic community, in the management subject, to be precise. Indian cultural concepts are making new waves in different countries, which is clear from the high level of acceptance that

Dr. Deepak Chopra's book "Return of the Rishi" received. A course was offered on "the living Universe" in the Schumaker College in U.K. This concept of living universe is explained in the Viswa Roopa chapter in Bhagwad Gita and also through Purushasooktha in the Vedas.

Buddhism, The Light Of Asia

The combination of **Buddha** and his diligent sishya **Ananda** gave to the world the wisdom of Lord Buddha. Ananda was a man of organization par excellence as well. He translated into action the philosophy of Buddha ***"Sangham Saranam Gacchami"*** and laid the foundation for Buddhist Sangha. From this organized group of Buddhism, several monks went to different countries. By 7th century, Buddhism had become the religion of entire Asia. Buddhism had spread to areas now known as Afghanistan, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Tibet, Bhutan, Burma, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, China, Mongolia, Taiwan, Korea right upto Japan, thus accounting for more than one-third of world's population.

How India conquered China

Without Sending A Single Soldier

One incident that is related to Kanchipuram in Tamil Nadu is as follows: One of the three sons of Suganda, a Brahmin king of Kanchipuram of 6th century took to Buddhist monkhood to avoid conflict in the race for royal succession. His master having trained this young prince called Bodhi Dharma (470-543 CE) and asked him to go to China and strengthen Buddhism. Bodhi Dharma arrived in China after a brutal trek over Tibet's Himalayan mountains surviving both the extreme elements and treacherous bandits. The emperor of China Wu Ti, a devout Buddhist himself, welcomed Bodhi Dharma. He posed three questions. "How many Buddha Viharas or Temples have you built?" Bodhi Dharma replied "None". Then he asked Bodhi Dharma, "What is the central theme of Buddha's teachings?" (There are several aspects of Buddha's teachings. Some may say compassion as the hallmark, some may say Ahimsa as the cardinal teaching of Buddha. In the philosophical world, Buddha's teaching was ***soonya vada*** which means to negate the wordly things, to crush the mind and remove all the thought process in it. Stilling the mind or vast emptiness is the essence of soonya vada). Hence, Bodhi Dharma replied ***"'nothing' is the essence of Buddha's teachings"***. The third question the king posed was, "Who are you?" Again Bodhi Dharma replied, "I do not know". Because in philosophy, the moment you come to know who you are, you get liberated. All the three answers of Bodhi Dharma did not satisfy the worldly king who therefore ordered Bodhi Dharma to leave his court.

Poti Daruma, as he is more popularly known in China, left the court, crossed the very turbulent Tse River on a leaf and climbed Bear's Ear Mountain in the Sung Mountain range where the Shaolin Temple was located. He meditated there in a small cave for nine years. Bodhi Dharma, in true Mahayana spirit, was moved to pity when he saw the terrible physical condition of the monks of the Shaolin Temple. Likening them to the young Shakyamuni, who almost died from practising asceticism, he informed the monks that he would teach their bodies and their minds Buddha's dharma through a two-part program of meditation and physical training. Bodhi Dharma, a master of staff fighting, developed a system of marital arts style called Gung Fu, the rules of which were printed in 550 A.D. His meditation was called Chan Buddhism (derived from Sanskrit word DHYAN). Chan is the most common family name in China. Jackie Chan is a name popular around the globe. When Chan Buddhism reached Korea and Japan the same was called Zen Buddhism. Today Zen Buddhism is the fastest growing religion in the world. Every household in China has an image of Bodhi Dharma. In China and Japan, there are thousands of temples with the statue of the bearded Bodhi Dharma. It is ironical indeed that in Bharat, nay, in Kanchipuram even, none know of him. Hu Shih, former Ambassador of China to USA said: ***"India conquered and dominated China culturally for 20 centuries without ever having to send a single soldier across her border."***

The coming together of **Chandragupta** and **Chanakya** produced the great Magadha empire, which defeated the Greek invasion. Chandragupta's grandson Emperor Ashoka sent emissaries to spread Buddhism in Sri Lanka, Burma and Thailand.

Shivaji Inspires Unification Of Vietnam

Chattrapati Shivaji Maharaj destroyed the mighty Moghul kingdom and established a great Hindu empire under the guidance of saint **Samarth Ramdas**. He is also respected the world over for his ingenuity of guerilla warfare by which method he could defeat armies much larger than his own. North Vietnam was engaged in a war against the wealthiest and most powerful of all nations – America – from 1955 to 1975. Ultimately North Vietnam succeeded in defeating South Vietnam and America in that war of 20 years and united the country. Their defence minister Madame Binh visited Bharat in 1977. Our defence minister Jagjivan Ram received her. Whenever such foreign dignitaries visit India, government of India arranges their visit to Raj Ghat, Shanti Van, Kutub Minar and Taj Mahal in Delhi. But Binh had her own priorities. She expressed her keen desire to garland the stature of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. This created some

embarassement to the Indian government as it had to clean and get the statue ready for her and to arrange for a suitable crane to take her that height. When asked why she was so particular about garlanding an Indian hero, she replied that during the bitter war against the Americans, the Vietcong soldiers narrated the heroic saga of Shivaji Maharaj and of his military generals who made mincemeat of the mighty Moghuls. By this they were able to inspire and instill a sense of patriotism among the young Vietcong soldiers, leading them ultimately to victory in war. Also Shivaji was the inventor of guerilla warfare, a technique the Vietcong soldiers used successfully against the American armies.

Vivekananda Inspires Freedom Movement In Indonesia

The coming together of **Narendra** and **Ramakrishna Paramhamsa** gave us a dynamic philosopher Vivekananda, whose speech at Chicago is still remembered after one hundred years. While centenaries of birthdays or anniversaries are celebrated, in the case of Swami Vivekananda, the centenary of his Chicago address was celebrated as an international event in 1993. The Guru-Sishya combination of Ramakrishna Parmahamsa and Swami Vivekananda has inspired and influenced hundreds of men and women in East and West. There is an incident from the freedom struggle of Indonesia. General Sukarno was fighting for the freedom of Indonesia from the Dutch rulers. Once Sukarno and his friends were arrested and they were kept in various cells in different islands. Being separated from all his colleagues and kept isolated in an island, Sukarno started loosing faith in himself and his mission. At that moment, he came across the Dutch version of Swami Vivekananda's teachings. In particular, he was inspired by Swamiji's words: ***"We have wept long enough; no more weeping. Stand on your feet and be men!"*** This rekindled his freedom spirit and eventually won freedom for Indonesia. Years later, as president of Indonesia, he once phoned his colleague and freedom fighter Bhagavan Das in Surabaya to inform him that he could spare his books on Swami Vivekananda so that the latter could find some stimulation to solve the pressing national problems.

Thus we can rightly feel proud that our ancient Guru-Shishya Parampara has stirred the entire world in many ways.

Doctorji-Guruji Combination Transformed Hindus

The coming together of RSS founder **Dr. Hedgewar** and its second chief **Shri. Guruji Golwalkar** rendered our introvert Hindu society into one endaved with extrovent lookout as well. It has given us today a mammoth organization, the RSS. An organization that holds more than 50,000 daily, weekly or monthly gatherings throughout the length and

breadth of Bharat. Taking inspiration from RSS in Bharat, 750 daily and weekly shakhas are organizing Hindus in 40 countries around the world under banners like Hindu Swayamsewak Sangh. The members – called swayamsevaks – come together, play together, sing together, discuss together in front of the Bhagawa Dhwaj, the saffron flag. One may wonder, in what way the society benefits by their coming together in such large number of places? These swayamsevaks have translated their philosophy into action by running more than 50,000 seva karyas – welfare activities – of all kinds in every nook and corner of Bharat. As revered Swami Chinmayananda once mentioned. "You name it, and they have it".

These welfare activities may be classified into four categories, Education, Health, Self Employment and Disaster Management. In education, the seva activities include thousands of free schools, One Teacher schools (Ekal Vidyalaya), hostels, libraries, orphanages, etc. Under health, Seva Bharati runs thousands of hospitals, dispensaries, mobile medical vans, ambulances, blood banks (There are two blood banks in Tamilnadu, one in Chennai and the other is Salem); medical camps etc. Self-employment is provided to the weaker sections through free tailoring classes, industrial training centers, basket weaving, honey collection, cottage industries like making soaps, chalks, agarbatti, etc.

Whenever there are accidents, floods, fire, earthquakes and storm, people in khaki half pants are seen there within a few minutes of the calamity working selflessly till the entire society overcomes that tragedy. At 8.45 AM on 26 January, 2001, in Kutch (Gujarat) there was one of the worst earthquakes that our country has ever faced. By 9.15 AM, RSS volunteers were at the heart of this tragedy in Bhuj, Bachao, and Anjan serving the victims. RSS has earned a new name by these altruistic acts -"**R**eady for **S**elfless **S**ervice".

Dr. Hedgewar, who founded this organization in 1925, was a great man of vision. Generally we meet people with vision or action. Vision without action is only a daydream and action without vision is nightmare. Karl Marx was a visionary without action. Lenin and Hitler were men of action with little vision. They left millions dead. Communism of Marx has become redundant today, But in the true Hindu tradition, a visionary must be a man of action too. Whether it was Buddha, Adi Sankara or Dr. Hedgewar, everyone translated his vision into action. Thus, they were able to change the society without bloodshed.

Dr. Hedgewar in his vision did not name any individual as the guru of RSS but placed the Bhagwa Dhwaj in that august pedestal. Bhagwa means Bhagawan, Lord (Divine) and Dhwaj means flag. Hence this Bhagwa or

Saffron dhwaj is the flag of the Gods. The very colour signifies many universal principles and values. When we light fire for Yajna, the flame has this colour. Fire denotes Purity and Sacrifice. Prior to sunrise, the sky is lit with this saffron colour. This light dispels darkness or ignorance. Bhagavan Buddha, Adi Sankara and Swami Vivekananda traveled the length and breadth of this country wrapped in clothes of saffron hue. Bhagwa colour represents purity of thought, speech and action. It represents supreme sacrifice. It represents knowledge. Above all, Bhagwa Dhwaj represents the antiquity of Hindu dharma. Bhagwa Dhwaj existed during the earliest Vedic period. During Kurukshetra war, right on top of Arjuna's ratha, this flag fluttered. Also atop that the ratha of Lord Surya millions of years ago. The same Bhagwa Dhwaj exists today also. Hence it is a witness to tens of thousands of years of Hindu history.

Guru-Sishya Example From Mumbai Shakha

Dr. Hargobind Singh Khorana received the Nobel Prize in 1968 for his work on genetic engineering while residing in America. Government of India invited him to visit Bharat. His accomplishment was a matter of pride for all Indians. When he landed in Bombay airport, the Maharashtra Governor went to receive him. Many leading celebrities of India and Mumbai including press reporters welcomed him. But Dr. Khorana had set priorities for himself in Bharat. He wanted to meet urgently one Dr. Abasaheb Gunde. Everyone was wondering who this Dr. Abasaheb Gunde was! A nobel laureate comes all the way from America, meets the Governor at the airport and says, "Please give me some time. Let me meet a special person and come back". Dr Khorana met Dr. Abasaheb Gunde who was the Sanghchalak (President) of RSS in Chembur, a suburb of Mumbai. What was the urgency in meeting him? Dr. Hargobind Singh Khorana explained. An eminent professor and scientist in UK had once told him that whenever he would visit Bharat, he must meet Dr. Abasaheb Gunde and convey his wishes. When Dr. Khorana asked the professor what was so special about Dr. Gunde, the **UK scientist** replied that while many brilliant scientists have done research under him, **Dr. Gunde** was his best student. Abasaheb learnt the spirit of Guru-Sishya relation in the RSS shakha. No wonder, he was able to make such an impact on the UK Professor.

Another incident pertains to the year 1975. Thanks to Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi, thousands of social workers were thrown in jail. In the Yervada (Pune) jail, there were about 2,500 of them. Around 2,000 were from RSS Parivaar. The others belonged to various political parties, including the Socialist groups. As days passed, some detenues asked

RSS activists to teach them yoga. A pracharak, Dr. Madhav Paralkar, expert in Yoga, gathered the Socialists and tried to teach them meditation. Among those who learnt Yoga and meditation under him was one **Shri Keshavrao Dhondge**, an MLA belonging to Shetkari and Kamgar Paksh (Farmers and Workers' Party). **Dr Madhavrao Paralkar** said, "I will teach you meditation, because you want to calm down your mind. It will help you to overcome grief, tension and anxiety". He went on: "All of you sit down. Close your eyes". They did. "Think of any personal god. It can be Lord Ganesha, Allah or Jesus, Krishna or any personal god". Shri Dhondge got up and said "I don't believe in any god". Dr. Paralkar said, "Ok, ok, please sit down. Close your eyes". He did. "You think of any great man. It can be Buddha, Shivaji or Vivekananda". The leader again got up and said, "I don't consider any one as great". Now what to do? He has decided to disrupt this meditation class. Dr. Paralkar said, "Ok, ok, you sit down. Close your eyes". He did. Then Dr. Paralkar said, "Ok, you think of your mother". Again the MLA got up. This time, he went straight to Paralkar and stared at him for a few seconds. Next minute he fell at his feet and said, "Nobody has ever taught a lesson in my life as clearly and as curtly as you have done. It has been my habit to disrupt every meeting. But when you said, 'think of your mother', I had no answer. I accept you as my Guru".

All these qualities come to you when you attach yourself to one of the oldest and noblest traditions of the world. Bhagwa Dhwaj is a witness to what has happened in Indian history for the past 10,000 years. Let us focus on the great changes that have taken place in the Hindu society in the last 79 years since the RSS advent.

Mega Changes In Hindu Society

Since The Inception Of RSS

Three important changes could be spotted.

1) From a colonial slave to Super Power, 2) from an introvert society to a society imbued with extorvert lookout as well. 3) from Hindu Meekness to Hindu Pride.

Hindu society in general, several Hindu organizations and RSS in particular, have played a significant role in bringing about these changes.

Fifty years ago we were a slave country, a colony of the British empire. From that slave colony we have risen to a super power status.

From an introvert society we are donning an extrovert attitude as well. For the past 100 years, we have been receiving several major blows and we have now come to minor setbacks. Time and again many people insult

Hindus; some incidents in Punjab, some incidents in Kashmir, terrorism in many cities – all these definitely are a cause of concern for every Hindu. But if you compare them with the major blows that we received at the time of Gazani, Ghori, Khilji, Tuglak, Babur, Aurangazeb and even at the time of India's Partition, the present events cannot be termed as major blows but can be seen only as minor setbacks.

The third mega change is the change of the Hindu society from Hindu meekness to Hindu pride.

Bharat : From A Colony To A Superpower

In 1925 when Sangh was started, India was a colony of the British Empire. They described us as just snake charmers, a hungry, poor illiterate nation. We were pointed as baking our daughters-in-law, burning our windows. A mutually quarrelling lot, spilling our blood on caste and religious lines. A nation waiting to break up. For centuries, why, till a decade back, this was how the West perceived us and projected us.

We became a free nation in 1947. But we feared the US and the West for long. Even couple of years back, we were scared that they would devour us, in the WTO and elsewhere; that they would cripple our business and trade. They did frighten us for long, far too long. Those who imitated the West also counselled us to do what the West wanted and not to defy them. For, our growth depended upon them, they argued.

But today we are a Super Power in the making. How did we become a super power in such a short time? When we were a colonial slave, Veer Savarkar had said, if all Indians stand up and spit at the same time, the whole of England will be drowned. But we did not have that unity. From there, how did we become a super power?

Are we a super power? Many people want to know what are the attributes of a super power.

Independent military agenda, History of having won a major war, military power, economic power and technological power are the five major criteria for being a super power. How many countries have waged war independently? How many countries in the world have independent military plans? Very very few.

India is the one country which has got its own military schedule. America, China and Ruassia are the other major countries that have an independent military program. All other countries are members of organizations like NATO, SEATO, CENTO, Warsaw Pact, ANZUS Pact and so on. And therefore, they are dependant on China, Russia or America. But India does not depend on others for its military programs.

We also won a major war in 1971 when Pakistan, armed with US Sabre Jets, Patton Tanks and backed by the mighty Seventh Fleet and supported by China, attacked India. India comprehensively defeated the three – enemy combination and liberated entire Bangladesh within 14 days. This swiftness of the operation is a world record in the annals of warfare. We also captured Gen. Niazi and 95,000 Pak soldiers as prisoners of war – another world warfare record.

Now, let us examine India's Missile Power, Economic Power and Technological Power base.

From Coffee Percolators To Missiles

When we won our independence in 1947, our founding leaders under the illusion of Ahimsa and Pachasheela, dismantled many defence factories. These plants, instead of producing gun powder, were producing coffee powder and percolators. But we learnt a bitter lesson in 1962 after the Chinese attack.

Today we are very much advanced in Missile technology. Missile technology is all about attaining superiority in Nuclear technology, Rocket technology, Satellite technology, high resolution cameras and in Super Computers. In all these, India is sharing the topmost position with just 4 or 5 other nations. That India has reached this top position without any support from the Western nations is a matter of pride to the Indian scientists.

May 11 and May 13, 1998 made history. On those days India launched a project called 'Laughing Buddha' or Pokharan-II. It conducted successfully nuclear tests in the deserts of Rajasthan. Several opinion polls have been conducted in modern India. But no opinion poll has ever got 96% vote in favour as was the case in Pokharan tests. Every Hindu in India and outside was extremely proud when India conducted successfully 7 nuclear tests in a row.

India is one of the four countries that have Fast Breeder Reactor Technology – USA, France and Japan being the other three.

India is one of the three countries that have produced Super Computers – America and Japan being the other two countries. People are still talking whether to include India in G-11 or G-8. We are already in G-3.

While the American Super Computer costs Rs. 450 crore, Indian Param costs less than Rs. 22.5 crore. Many countries including Russia have placed orders on India to make Super Computers for them.

In Satellite and Rocket Technology also India is among the best 5 nations. We are launching satellites even for advanced European countries like Germany, Belgium and Hungary.

Our **TES (Technology Experiment Satellite)** is designed and built by Indian scientists. It has **cameras with a resolution of 1 metre** that can pick an umbrella from up the skies. Just a few months back, the US had denied India access to the one metre images of Afghanistan from its Ikonos satellite. TES was now in effect saying, **'Never mind – we can manage quite well, thank you'** [Incidentally India too will not share TES images: they are for our defense purposes only].

In October, 2001, **India's space workhorse, the PSLV C3** lifted off and soared into space. Then it performed a copy book launch, placing **India's TES and two paying customers' satellites, Belgium's PROBA and Germany's BIRD into the prescribed orbit.**

Our unmanned flight to moon is also getting ready and many leading countries are competing with each other to give their components to have a share in our success.

Coming to Rocket Technology: India has been celebrating what is called the 'Pravasi Bharatiya (NRI) day' since two years. The present mood of the people, the government, every other government, is that overseas Indians are no more strangers to us. They might have left 100 years back to Malaysia, Trinidad, Guyana, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Fiji or South Africa. Still they are of Indian origin and so we are all one big family. Every year, on January 9 we have a big NRI celebration in Delhi. An occasion when, every achievement of overseas Indians makes everyone feel proud. Otherwise, Hargobind Singh Khorana would not be invited to India to deliver a lecture at Bombay University.

In the march of rocket technology, America has come to reach a stage of 'Mach-7'. It means the rocket will travel at 7 times the speed of sound, i.e., 8,000 kilometres per hour. Presently, it takes two and a half hours by flight from Chennai to Delhi. At Mach 7 speed, within a matter of few minutes you will be in Delhi. You can reach any part of the world in a matter of few hours. Who is the director of Mach-7 aerodynamics at NASA? The scientist is **Shri Ajay Kumar** from Meerut, Bharat. And he is now in charge of the next project. Having completed Mach-7 successfully, he has been made in charge of March-10 Project. He will be designing a rocket that will be traveling at the speed of 12,000 kilometres per hour.

For over 20 years, **Dr. Shiva Subramanya** was the Joint Coordinator of all Space Projects of USA and he had a direct hotline to White House. (Dr. Shiva Subramanya is a first year trained swayamsevak and has been serving Vishwa Hindu Parishad of America as its senior vice-president for over 3 decades).

If you take a look at the scientists' list at NASA, 33% of them happen to be from India. Not only NASA, but supporting structures like the Intel, the IBM, the Microsoft, Dell computers, Hewlett Packard, Standard Charted Bank and many other multinationals are flooded with large percentages of Indians.

After the Pokharan Nuclear Tests, President Bill Cilinton wanted to punish India with three sanctions. 1. No country should give foreign exchange to India, 2. No country should give any scientific instrument or part to India because they may use it for military purposes, 3. No visas should be given to Indian scientists to enter US.

India overcame the monetary sanctions through India Resurgent Bonds purchased by overseas Indians.

The erstwhile Indian Prime Minister Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee called a meeting of Indian scientists to discuss the effects of the second sanction. He said, "The Western powers have put a blanket ban on any technology transfer to India. They have even made Russia cancel the supply of Cryogenic engines for which we have already made payments. So you may have to reschedule your nuclear and space programs. Have you anything to say?"

Our scientists told the prime minister, "Please make a request to Clinton for one particular thing". Atalji said, "How can I go and request him anything? It is a question of India's self respect. I can't beg of him". But the scientists insisted, "you have to talk to Bill Clinton about the scientific sanctions and request him to extend the sanctions from 2 years to 20 years. We do not want any help from them. We are capable of upgrading our own technology. You tell us what you want. We can produce the Cryogenic engine at less cost than even the transportation cost from Russia. We can take you to moon in the stipulated time". Atalji smiled and said "I am still a bachelor. I cannot enjoy the Honeymoon". That is proof of the confidence of Indian scientists.

The third ban imposed by Bill Clinton was that no Indian scientist will be allowed to come to America. This did not affect India at all. Within three days, chairmen of leading companies and banks like Microsoft, INTEL, IBM and Standard Charted Bank met Clinton and said, "If you put a ban on Indian scientists coming to America, India will not be the loser. Because Japan and Germany, our competitors, will absorb them. And tomorrow in the world market, their software and their hardware will be selling like hot cakes. We will no more be leaders in the world market. If you want America to be right on the top in the computer field, in information technology and in various other fields, Indian scientists have to come

here. Or else we will consider shifting our operations to India". The third ban was lifted immediately.

Bharat Vanshis March Shoulder To Shoulder With Bharat Vasis

Overseas Indians have also established their financial superiority. Laxminivas Mittal of Mittal Steels is the richest person in United Kingdom. He is followed closely by Swaraj Paul, Hindujas Jatania Brothers, Tom Singh, Bhikkubhai Patel and a few others. On per capita basis, ethnic Indians are the richest or among the richest communities in USA, Canada, UK, France, Germany and other European countries, Hong Kong, Thailand, Japan, Taiwan, Kenya, Nigeria, Tanzania, Zambia, Fiji, Australia and New Zealand. In USA an average Indian earns 25% more than the national average.

Petronas Tower in Kuala Lumpur, the tallest twin towers in the world, belongs to Ananta Krishnan. Laxminivas Mittal has purchased a castle in London by paying the highest amount in the world so far. His industries span over 25 countries around the globe and he produces more steel than Bharat or most countries in the world. Aditya Birla company in Thailand produces maximum carbon black in the world and so on.

Bharat vasis and Bharat Vamshis together have made Bharat the third largest economy in the world next only to USA and China.

From Rags To Riches – India's Economic Power

To be a Super Power a country must be very rich. Ours is a fairy-tale story of rags to riches. Just a few examples will suffice: When Shri Chandrasekhar was the Prime Minister, he mortgaged 23 tonnes of our gold in the world market in 1991 to buy much needed foreign exchange to pay salaries to the government staff in Delhi and to pay interest on loans taken from several countries. At that time, we did not have enough foreign exchange. We had been begging and taking loans from all the countries and financial institutions around the world. Let any new country be formed, our Finance Minister used go there seeking loans.

When India conducted nuclear tests in 1998, there was an immediate uproar from most countries. America, Australia and various other countries imposed a blanket ban on loan or aid to India. They told all nations and financial institutions that India is misusing their loans and hence not a single cent should be given. Without foreign exchange, India cannot buy petrol. Petrol is the life line of India. Without petrol India will be crushed. So India will not exist as India. India needed 1 billion dollars to import petrol every year. Government of India did not have that much money. So **India Resurgent Bonds** scheme was launched. Appeals went forth to

overseas Indians to purchase these bonds. Within one month the overseas Indians deposited 4 billion dollars in India. The crisis of petrol and the crisis of foreign exchange was thus averted. Thus in the year 1998, we did not have 1 or 2 billion dollars. But in a matter of 5 years, today we are having 120 billion dollars as foreign exchange reserve. Where to keep so much of dollars, is the talk now. Of this, 50 billion dollars was kept in American Treasury. i.e, American Reserve Bank. But the value of the American dollar and the interest rates are both going down. So somebody in Indian government was thinking why not invest this amount in Euro dollars. Euro dollar was appreciating at that time. The Chairman of the American Treasury became jittery. He requested his Indian counterpart, "Please don't withdraw the 50 billion dollars. This will shake our economy". In 5 years we have grown enough to "shake" American economy. That is our monetary strength today. Every month we are adding 5 billion dollars to our reserves. It is steadily going up. SENSEX Index has crossed 6,000 mark. Similarly, rate of growth of the Indian economy is 7 to 8%. This at a time when even Europe is having negative growth. We have been growing very fast. We have now got money power. We have even given a loan of 300 million dollars to IMF.

From Agricultre To Technology

A Super Power must have superior technological power. There are two Technologies – defence technology and industrial technology. We just now saw our advancements in military and missiles technology. We also saw how the sanctions against importing scientific instruments did not affect India. From an agricultural society we have become a technological society. Not only in warfare technology but also in agricultural, industrial and information technologies.

In agriculture, for that matter, India is among the top five countries. It is not only self-sufficient but also exports food products. It is number one in rice and milk production and number two in wheat and vegetable production. Hence from a borrowing country we have become a surplus country.

In normal day to day technology also, we have progressed in a big way. India produces spare parts for all the leading automobile manufacturers of the world. Every car manufacturer in the world depends on India for one part or the other. In motor bike, Hero Honda is number one in the world. A car factory in Korea, said that "We are closing down the factory and shifting the entire production to India. From India we will export the cars back to Korea for our consumption". So much of faith they have in Indian manufacturers and Indian technologists. Once TATA

Indica was manufacturig 1 lakh cars for Indian consumption. Today it is selling 1 lakh cars in Europe alone. Its marketing agents are Europeans selling the car with brand name TATA Indica. All these facts were conceded by a Pakistani journalist Shri Masood Hasan of Lahore, who writes: "Pakistan got independence on August 14. India got independence one day later. Pakistan should have been the elder brother in its path of technological growth. But it is always India that is first. "It is lamentable, he says, that India is progressing in all industrial products. "It is depressing that India is progressing in pharmacy; In pharmacy India is 4^{th} in the world". Ten years back, pharmaceutical MNCs were holding 75% of the flow here. Today they are reduced to just 30%. In a few years more, it will be still less. Similarity India has progressed in different fields in the last 5-10 years." (See Masood Hasan's article in Annexure-V).

From Village View To Global View

From a slave colony we are progresing towards a super power status. To be a super power, one more factor is in our favour. With over 6 crore Indian Hindus living in over 100 countries, we are the largest and most widely spread community in the world.

We had only a village view 100 years back. But today we have a global view. Our people went to Fiji, Burma, Malaysia, Singapore, Mauritius, South Africa, Trinidad, Guyana, Surinam, Jamaica and other countries 100 years ago. But majority of them served as slaves and as contract laborers and had only a limited village view. But today? A few years back, Shri Mahendra Chowdry became the Prime Minister in Fiji. In Trinidad, we have Vasudev Pandey as the prime minister. Anerood Jugnauth is the President of Mauritius. In Singapore, S.R. Nathan and in Guyana Bharat Jagdev are the Presidents of the Republics. They decide the destinies of those countries. Similarly in the 1980's Shri Devan Nair was the President of Singapore and Sri Sewasagar Ramgoolam was the Prime Minister of Mauritius. In Malaysia we have Minister Datto Sri Samivelu, who is a senior member in the cabinet. Sri Lanka, South Africa and Canada also have Cabinet Ministers of Indian origin. Indians grace the Upper House in England. Smt. Sukhwinder Kaur has been elected the mayor of Chirstchurch in England for the second time. Sridath Ramphal rose to become the Secretary General of Commonwealth organizations.

On the economic and education fronts also overseas Indians have conquered many frontiers. In most of the western countries ethnic Indians are the most educated race and hence are among the richest communities – may it be USA, Canada, UK, Germany, France and other European countries or Hong Kong, Thailand, Japan, Taiwan, Kenya, Australia, New Zealand and Fiji.

Malaysia, Singapore and Sri Lanka celebrate Deepawali festival with declared government holidays and illuminating main streets. Parliament Houses in Canberra (Australian capital), Sydney, London and the Senate House in Washington are lit up and Indian cultural shows are staged on the ocassion of Deepawali festival. So much for the clout overseas Indians enjoy in these countries.

From Introvert To "Also Extrovert" Society

The gigantic labours of Doctor Hedgewar, Shri Guruji and RSS workers have been exceptional in transforming the centuries of introvert Indian society into an extrovert one as well. According to BBC, RSS with over 50,000 daily and weekly shakhas all over Bharat and in 40 countries is the largest non-governmental youth organization in the world. RSS has also inspired Vishwa Hindu Parishad the largest Hindu oranisation in the world, Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad the largest student organization, Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh the largest labour organization and Vanavasi Kalyan Ashram the largest organization working for the welfare of poor and needy people living in hilly forest areas. Seva Bharati and Seva International which run more than 50,000 welfare activities like schools, orphanages, medical camps, hospitals and dispensaries all over Bharat and in Kenya, Malaysia, Burma, Sri Lanka and Nepal is also one of the largest of its type in the world.

Extroverts As Well Everywhere

Swayamsevaks are also active in many social fields overseas and have made the Hindu community active.

In 1984, India's Prime Minister Smt Indira Gandhi was assassinated by Sikh extremists. The Indian Consulate General in Hong Kong appealed to all Indian organizations to hold at least one public condolence meeting but none was coming forth for fear of local Sikhs. Hindu Swayamsewak Sangh immediately organized a public program inviting all Hindu leaders. Soon other Indian organizations too followed suit.

India Club is a pride of the Hindus of Hong Kong. It has tennis courts, badminton courts, pool tables, conference halls, private rooms etc. For expansion of its facilities, India Club used to raise funds by organizing Fun-Fairs every year. The local Pakistani boys started coming to these events and harassing Hindu girls. When complaints started coming from parents, India Club stopped this function. Money was hard to come by and so many developments were stalled. HSS Hong Kong approached the India Club authorities and ensured full security protection. Young Swayamsevaks wore HSS badges and went around the place and when

they found Pakis creating nuisance they were quick to apprehend them. Sensing trouble, the mischief-mongers took to their heels.

In Malaysia, the Christian missionaries were very active with their conversion activities. But ever since the awareness created amongst the Hindus by Sangh workers, conversion rate amongst Hindus has come down and now the Hindu volunteers of several Hindu organizations are busy reconverting Christians back to Hindu-fold.

Over 20,000 Hindus assemble at Fairfields Grounds every year in Sydney, Australia, to rejoice at Diwali festival. Most organizers of this event are swayamsevaks. Australian federal and provincial ministers grace this celebration.

From Cocoons To World Trend Setters

For centuries Hindus have been living as cocoons, unmindful of foreign invasions, attacks, foreign despotic and repressive rules, slavery, rape of Hindu women, and desecration of temples, beheading of their seers and untold miseries to innocent Hindus.

Emperors of Vijaya Nagar Samrajya, Rana Pratap Singh, Shivaji Maharaj, Guru Govind Singh, Maharaja Ranjit Singh, Jhansi Rani, Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Arumuga Navalar, Swami Dayanada Saraswati, Swami Vivekananda, Lokamanya Tilak, Mahatma Gandhi and host of other freedom fighters fought against these barbaric oppressions and tyranny. Had they received much needed support from the Hindu masses, for whose honor they laid down their lives, history of our country would have been different! We would not have had a slave history of thousand years. The Hindu society by and large remained indifferent and apathetic.

Slowly, the society is coming out of its cocoon and changing for the better. Dr Har Gobind Khorana, Dr Subramanyam Chandrasekhar, Prof. Amartya Sen and V.S.Naipaul have been decorated with Noble Prizes. Dr Shiva Subramanya (Vice President Vishwa Hindu Parishad America), Dr Sudarshan and a few others in USA missed Noble Prizes for want of strong recommendations by other governments. 'Lagaan' and now 'Shwaas' have been nominated for Oscar awards. Shyamalan born in Pondicherry is the highest paid script-writer in Hollywood.

Scientists and professionals like Vinod Khosla (co founder of Sun Microsystem), Vinod Dham (Pentium Chip creator), Sabeer Bhatia (Hotmail creator), Arun Netravali (President of AT & T-Bell Labs), Rajiv Gupta (Gen Mgr Hewlett Packard), Sanjay Tejwrika (Director Microsoft Testing), Rajat Gupta and Rana Talwar (Mckensey and Stanchart), Raghuram Rajan (IMF Chief Economist) and so many others have brought exceptional laurels

to our Hindu community. USA would not have been what it is without the active participation of Hindu intellectuals who moved out there as late as the sixties. 100 Indian owned companies in USA generate 2.2 billion dollars and employ 21,000 people. 25% of all hotels and motels are now owned by Patels. HSS USA Sanghachalaks Dr Bhishma Agnihotri and Prof. Ved Prakash Nanda adorm the American "who is who" list. Child wizard Puri of Bangkok became the youngest Microsoft executive when he demonstrated his excellence in Microsoft Word, Excel, Power Point and emails at the strange age of three and half years.

In sports Vijay Singh of Fiji in 2004 has emerged as the world No. 1 in Golf relegating Tiger Woods to the second position. At the age of 41 he became the first player to earn more than $10 million in a single PGA tour season. The globetrotting Fijian belongs to a middle class Hindu family.

Most cricket playing nations have one or more players of Indian origin. Of these, Kalicharan and Nasser Hussain rose to become the captains of West Indies and England teams. While Sachin Tendulkar is being compared with legendary Don Bradman, Viswanathan Anand is a Grand Master in Chess, Narain Karthikeyan has a world ranking in car race and Mahesh Bhupathy is a world doubles champion in tennis for a long time.

Our introvert nature is being overcome and is giving way to aggressive international campaigns and competitions.

From Major Blows To Minor Setbacks

We know the major blows. When Nalanda University was attacked by Allaudin Khilji, in a matter of few hours 10,000 professors and students were slaughtered. Even sanyasis and Buddhist monks were not spared. Entire university and its vast library was consigned to flames for 6 months. Similarly, when Vijayanagara Samrajya was defeated, over 1,00,000 soldiers and innocent Hindus were killed on that day to celebrate the victory. Vijayanagara Samrajya, which according to Marcopolo who visited various parts of the world, was the splendor capital of the world, was consumed by flame for several months. When the last Afghanistan Hindu ruler lost to Muslim invaders, 1,00,000 Hindus were slaughtered every day. That is why that place is called Hindu Kush. Sikh Gurus and their followers were also butchered in large numbers. More recently, during the Khilafat movement in 1920s under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhiji and Ali Brothers in 1920s and during the regrettable partition of Bharat in 1947 over 5,00,000 Hindus in Punjab, Sind, Bengal and UP were massacred.

From such major blows we have now come to a few setbacks. Still Hindus in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Bangla Desh, Sri Lanka, Fiji, Guyana, Trinidad and Jammu and Kashmir in Bharat live in miserable conditions always at the mercy of war hungry bigots, extremists, diehards and Jihadis. The conspiracies behind militant attacks on our parliament, serial bomb blasts in Mumbai and Coimbatore, are to be crushed bravely.

We have to overcome our century old weaknesses and failings. Major attacks are not taking place these days because, Hindu society immediately responds. When 59 Hindus were roasted alive in Godhra train compartment, there was an immediate reaction. Hindus have shown their will to fight for Ram Janma Bhoomi. Our Jawans have staved off Pakistan attack on Kargil.

Hindu society is able to take up these challenges. From introvert society we have become an extrovert society as well.

From Self-emaciation To Selfless Service

Swami Vivekananda gave a clarion call to the Hindu nation to serve the poor and the needy. He proclaimed, "so long as millions of our countrymen live in poverty and illiteracy, I hold every Indian responsible, who, having been educated at their expense, pays not the least heed to them". For Swami ji, service to humanity was service to God. Was it not he who said that "they alone live who live for others; the rest are more dead than alive" and "even if a dog in my country is without food, my entire religion is to feed him"?. He made *Daridra Narayano Bhava* and *Murkha Narayano Bhava* (worship of the poor and the ignorant by serving them) as his mission.

RSS, inspired by Swamiji's powerful words, is in the forefront of service projects in Bharat. 45,000 welfare projects in education, medical, self-employment and disaster management fields have enabled lakhs of Hindus to find a more fulfilling meaning in their lives. Free schools, ekal vidyalayas, orphanages, libraries, student hostels, hospitals, dispensaries, medical vans, blood-banks, tailoring classes, basket weaving, honey collection centers, computer classes, and selfless service during calamities like accidents, earth quakes, cyclones have brought relief to millions of needy people and have earned for RSS the epithet Ready for Selfless Service.

Welfare Activities Outside Bharat

Suicide among Hindu women was at its peak in Cameron Highlands in Malaysia. Since insecticides were available in plenty among the estate workers, they would end any family dispute by consuming these fatal chemicals. Even school-going girls would end their lives under flimsy

pretexts. Young swayamsevaks Bala Murali and Gunasekaran went from Kuala Lumpur to Cameron Highlands every weekends and started many shakhas and conducted many camps. Later young Karuppan from Kulala Lumpur came out as a pracharak and was deployed in Cameron Highlands. Within a few years the curse of suicides was erased from Cameron Highlands, a fact recognized by the local government agencies.

In Gemas there was a sudden outburst of floods and houses of poor Hindus living in low lying areas were inundated. Young swayamsevak Paranthaman and his friends rushed help to the affected Hindus and moved them to safer premises. The flood victims felt strange at this help. The floods were a regular part of their lives at least once in 3-4 years. Generally the municipality workers would come after 3-4 days and the political party leaders with their volunteers would come after 5-6 days. But never before they had the experience of a helping hand coming from their own Tamil brothers saying 'we are Hindus and you are Hindus and so we have come here to help you'.

Swayamsevaks all over the world have been writing new chapters in organizing the Hindu society and raising it to regain its past glory and self respect.

In Myanmar (Burma) swayamsewaks were running an orphanage for Burmese children for many years before the government took control. They are running Sanskrit and Hindi classes for Buddhist monks and scholars who want to visit Bharat for higher studies. In Kenya, Sangh workers run medical camps for the African tribals. Blood donation drives are carried out on the occasion of Mahatma Gandhi Jayanti in Hong Kong, Sydney, Melbourne, Auckland, Kuala Lumpur, Bangkok, etc. Cleaning public parks and planting native trees by Sewa International are well appreciated program in Australia and New Zealand.

Many spiritual other religious organizations, Ramakrishna Mission, Chinmaya Mission, Divine Life Society to name only a few, have shown the path of selfless service as a way for Moksha or self-emancipation. In Durban, South Africa, Sivananda Society is doing excellent work amongst the tribal Africans. A swamiji is running more than 40 schools for the tribals there. Governemt there has recognized his services by naming one of the airports in Natal province after Swami Sivananda. Thai Bharat Cultural Lodge, Bangkok, has built several schools in remote tribal areas of Thailand. Satya Sai Foundation in Thailand runs residential school for Thai children. Hindu Samaj, Gita Ashram, Sindhi Samaj and Indo-Thai Chamber of Commerce in Bangkok give scholarships to deserving Thai

students. They are also in the fore-front of service activities during floods, fire-accidents or other disasters in their country.

From Men Only To Men And Women

Women always had a place of respect in the Hindu society. But with the advent of Muslim invaders, our women had to be protected against onslaught on their modesty and so they had to remain within the four walls of the house. Many unnatural restrictions like child marriage, no education for women, not crossing the ocean and caste rigidity were introduced to protect the Hindu society against conversions to the foreign culture and life style.

Hundred years ago, very few women were seen active in society. But today they lead the men in so many fields. India produced women graduates and post graduates much before England and other western countries. Women Pilots of Indian Airlines were the First women pilots on international flights and in 2003 Indian Airlines created a new record when it flew to Mauritius with an all women crew.

Weight lifting champion Malleswari won a medal for India in the Olympics. PT Usha held a pride of place in Asian athletic competitions for a long period. Women are serving the civil services, police and armed forces; In Air Force there are women Air Marshall and there are women Lieutenant Generals in the Army.

Space astronaut Kalpana Chawla has become a legend of our times. In USA, Preeta Bansal is an advisor to the White House. Arti Prabhakar is Director National Institute of Standards there. A young Indian girl Kum. Sthalekar, represents Australian test cricket team. The list goes on...

Sirimao Bhandaranaike of Sri Lanka and Smt. Indira Gandhi of Bharat became the first women prime ministers. They inspired Golda Meir of Israel, Margaret Thatcher of United Kingdom, Helen Clerk of New Zealand, Benazir Bhutto of Pakistan, Sheikh Hasina and Begum Khaleeda Zia of Bangla Desh to rise to Prime Ministership. The wealthiest and most powerful nation USA is yet to have a lady President or Vice-President. It may also be noted that most European nations including France and Italy gave women the right to vote only around 1945 after the Second World War. USA gave equal status to women in politics only in 1920 and UK in 1928.

Mata Amritanandamayi draws unprecedented number of devotees all over the world. Over 10,000 non Indian devotees congregated in Kerala on her 50th birthday celebrations.

From Hindu Meekness To Hindu Pride

In these days of international traveling and global villages, Hindus are the most widely distributed race in the world and we see majestic Hindu

temples built in almost all international cities. Swaminarain Sampradaay and International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) are literally in a race to build stunning, spectacular Hindu temples worldwide. Malaysia has over 10,000 large and small temples. A mile long queue is seen at the 200-year-old Lord Shiva temple in Muscat on any festival day. It is the same story in Hindu temples in Dubai, Bahrain and all over the world.

Many churches in several Western countries are not able to attract enough followers. Unable to maintain huge churches, these are being auctioned. Many of these churches are bought by Hindus and converted into temples for Lord Krishna, Vishnu, Shiva, Tirupati Balaji and so on. In Sydney too, the grand Swami Narain temple was once a church. Once converted to Hindu temples, these are well attended not only by Indians but also by Western devotees. The golden temple at New Brindavan, USA is a shining example.

In Myanmar (Burma) the dictatorial regime of General Ne Win had closed down all temples in 1964. Now, the present military regime has handed over the dilapidated temples back to the Hindu community. The rich business communities like Marwaris, Chettiars, Gujaratis and Punjabis migrated to neighboring Thailand, Hong Kong and Bharat immediately after the Ne Win military coup in early sixties. The rest of the poor Hindu communities who had nowhere to go are now collecting millions of rupees to rebuild the huge temples. Even in Cambodia and Indonesia, the ancient Hindu temples of Angkor Wat and Prembanan are being renovated.

Half a million Hindu, Chinese and Western devotees congregate every year at Batu Caves Lord Subramaniam temple on the occasion of Thai Pusam. Similarly half a million devotees turn up at the Ganga Sagar in Mauritius on the occasion of Shiv Ratri. About 1,00,000 Thai and Chinese devotees partake in the Vijaya Dashami Ratha Yatra celebrations of the Maha Mariamman (Mata Parvati) Temple on Silom Road, Bangkok.

Most temples are centers of Hindu learning – classes for Bharata Natyam, classical music and tabla, are held; seminars and workshops on Hinduism are organized the year round. Religious and Vedantic discourses by Swami Dayanand Saraswati, Swami Tejomayananda, Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, Morari Bapu, Asaram Maharaj and Sudanshu Maharaj attract large number of Hindus.

International Hindu Conferences

International Hindu conferences and Vishwa Dharma Prasar Yatras organized by Vishwa Hindu Parishad in Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur, Singapore, Jakarta, Bali, Sydney, Auckland, Fiji, Mauritius, Trinidad, Guyana, Durban, London, Toronto, and several cities of USA were attended

by thousands of Hindus. Prominent world leaders like Nelson Mandela, Heads of states of Trinidad, Singapore, Thailand, Fiji, New Zealand and Hind saints participated and addressed these conferences. Large scale Buddha Exhibitions organised by H.S.S. workers in Thailand and in over 70 places in Burma have brought the local Buddhists in closer contact with the Hindu community.

Attracting Western And Non-Indian Audiences

His Holiness Dalai Lama is a phenomenon by himself. He draws lakhs of ardent followers in most of the Western countries. Similarly Ramakrishna Ashram, Sivananda Ashram, Saiva Siddhanta Church (based in Hawai), International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON), Art of Living by Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, Satya Sai Samaj, Chinmaya Mission, Rajyoga Centre, BKS Iyengar Yoga Center, Sahaja Yoga Foundation, Swami Muktananda Ashram, Mata Amritanandamayi Foundation, Thai-Bharat Cultural Lodge and the like are branching out all around. The universal and useful Hindu principles are attracting large non-Indians towards different aspects of Hinduism. "***Hinduism Today***" brought out by Saiva Siddhanta Church of Hawai is one of the best International magazines reporting Hinduism and current events among the world-wide Hindu community.

An interesting development of recent origin is the fact that while in India there may be a handful of temples for Lord Brahma, over hundred temples and shrines for Brahma can be seen in Bangkok. The Brahma temple of Wat Erawan in Bangkok is not only the most sought after temple but also the richest one. Several welfare projects like schools and hospitals for poor are run based on the temple income. The popularity of the four faced Brahma is growing and shrines and temples for the Lord of creation are coming up in Macau, Singapore, Taiwan, Las Vegas etc.

In Bharat too there has been a sharp rise in the devotees undertaking pilgrimages, kavadis, Vratas, and taking a holy dip on Makara Sankranti day at Triveni Sangam. The several crore-strong Holy congregation at Prayag Kumbha Mela happens to be the largest gathering anywhere on Planet Earth and the annual Sabari Malai yatra is the largest annual gathering in the world.

From East Only To East And West

For the last two millennium years Bharat has influenced the eastern countries of Japan, Korea, China, Taiwan, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Burma and Sri Lanka, Tibet, Nepal and Bhutan, not to mention Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh.

Hu Shih, the Chinese ambassador to America has said, India conquered China for 1,000 years without sending a single soldier. We have already seen the contribution of Bodhi Dharma, the young monk from Kanchipuram in the 6th century in the form of Kung Fu, Chinese form of exercises and meditative Chan or Zen Buddhism. Chinese version of Ramayana is currently shown on their TV channels and as usual Hanuman, the monkey God is the most alluring character in the serial.

Influence In Japan

The history of Japan is no different. In 736 AD a Hindu Brahmin Bharadwaj, once again, from Kanchipuram reached Japan. He was popular in Japan as "**Baramon**". He taught them Buddhism, Ramayana, Sanskrit, Dharma, Hindu Philosophy, and gave them culture, art and music in the then capital of Japan. Today everything with which Japanese rightly feel proud of as their ancient heritage and culture was given to them by this monk. The Japanese have three scripts one of them based on Tamil and Sanskrit was given by "Baramon Bharadwaj". This is enough to show, how Buddhism which is the dynamic form of Hinduism, has influenced one-third of the entire world. The Guru Sishya parampara of Buddha and his various disciples from Ananda onwards has played a big role in this manner.

The first chapter of the history of Kampuchia or Cambodia starts with a Brahmin King Kaundinya arriving on their shores with gifts of Indian dresses, ornaments and eatables. The ruins of Wat Angkor and Prembanan temple in Central Java stand testimony to the great Hindu influence in the last fifteen centuries. Most of these countries were ruled by Hindu empires.

Hinduism in South East Asia influenced the Champa kingdom in Vietnam from 192 Ad through 1697 A.D; influenced the Srivijayan Kingdom in Sumatra from 200 AD to 1400 A.D; the Singhasari kingdom and the Majapahit Empire in Java, Bali and a number of the islands of the Phillipines archipelago. The civilization of Bharat influenced the languages, scripts, calendars and artistic and culinary aspects of these people. Ramayana and Hindu culture has been the source of inspiration throughout the history of South East Asian countries.

Influence In Thailand

A leading Buddhist monk in Thailand told his followers that all aspects of Thai Culture beginning from the birth of a child to his death are a gift from Mother Bharati. Oriental Hotel in Bangkok is for many years, the award winning best hotel of the world. The hotel staff, very proudly wear, the Indian attire of

dhoti and kurta Indian - like - The kings of Thailand are called Rama and the present king is Bhumipal Atulya Tej, Rama IX.

Ramakeerti, the Thai Ramayana was composed in 17th century and is studied by all children in schools. World's largest Ramayana painting can be seen on the walls cf Emerald Buddha temple in Bangkok Royal Palace. Thai boxing which has now entered the Olympics is based on the fighting skills of Hanuman, Angad, Vali, Sugreev, as the Thais claim.

Many streets and prestigious buildings in Thailand, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia in South East Asia bear Sanskrit names. All rivers are reverently addressed as Mae which is Maa or Mother. Thus the river flowing through Bangkok, the capitol of Thailand is Mae Chaophraya. The river that flows from the Himalayas through Burma, China, Laos, Thailand and Cambodia is called **Maa Ganga** pronounced incorrectly by the French rulers as Mae Kong.

In most of South East Asian countries, people do not give anything with their left hands, they do not walk between two persons, passengers stand up and offer their seats to saffron - clad monks, people feed the monks with freshly cooked food at early hours of the dawn. Cities bear names like Ayodhya, Lavapuri, Kanchanapuri, Chandrapuri and Vishnulok; Singapore's the city of lions; Jayakarta, the city of victory (Capitol of Indonesia); Bandar Sri Bhagwan is the capital of Brunei and so on.

In Thailand, in spite of 18 military coups resulting in 19 governments in the past 50 years, there have been no death punishments, blood spilling or political vendetta. For this amazing cultural trait they thank Mother India. The country itself is called Siam Desh in their constitution, which means the land of Lord Vishnu.

Influence In Malaysia

In Malaysia the Prime Minster and his cabinet ministers take oath of office by uttering the words "**URUSAN SERI PADULA BEGINDA**" which means by the orders of Lord Rama's Paduka (as was done by Bharata in Ramayana). All government orders are issued in the name of Sri Paduka. The name plate at a mosque in Penang translated into English reads "This mosque has been built by the orders of Seri Paduka in 1974."

In Malaysia there are nine Sultans. One of them becomes the Agong or President of the country. He takes oath of office in the name of "**URUSAN SERI PADUKA DHULI BEGINDA**" which means by the orders of the Dust of Lord Rama's Paduka. Like us Indians, they too consider the dust of the Paduka to be holier than the the paduka itself.

The Malay version of Ramayan, "Hikayat Seri Rama" composed in the 13th century is among the earliest Malay literatures and is studied in the

universities as a piece of literature. Ramayana shadow plays and dance drama are still a craze in north and eastern provinces. Malay language too has many words of Sanskrit and Tamil origin. Sanskrit words like bhakti, shakti, sodara, sodari, kadai, guru, sisya, surya, swami, bhasa, jiva, vamsa, varta etc are in common usage. Prestigeous newly constructed buildings bear Sanskrit names like Chhaya Surya, Wishwa Putra, Anatara and Vishwa Duta.

The Sultan is called Raja Parameswara and the queen is addressed as Raja Parameswari. Their second son is addressed with respect as Lakshmana. 'Vanita Pushpavalli' is the name of the organization floated by the wives of cabinet ministers and they do social work for the poor and the needy.

Earlier western dress code was maintained during University graduation ceremonies. The government wanted to give this a Malay cultural appearance. Now the dress is pant, kurta, angavastra around the waist and a Malay cap. When the non-Malays objected to this dress code, the minister invited the Hindu youth leaders and expressed his surprise. He said he can understand the sentiments of Chinese but found it very difficult to swallow Hindu agitations since the dress code is typically Hindu. When the Hindu leaders objected to the black cap thinking it to be an Islamic cap, the minister was quick to correct their apprehension and said that the cap they are enforcing is a Hindu cap and not a Fez cap of the Arabs.

Influence In Indonesia

The real name of the capital of Indonesia is Jayakarta, the city of victory but wrongly pronounced as Djakarta by the Dutch rulers. Indonesia was ruled by ancient Hindu Majapahit rulers. This history is taught to the children in schools. Sanskrit, Ramayana, Mahabharata and meditation has enriched Indonesian culture. Bali is entirely a Hindu island with a population of 30 lakhs. Bali Hindus are the most friendly and loving people anywhere in the world. In their 150 years of regime, the Dutch rulers have not recorded any theft, loot, arson or mischief.

Once I went to Bali for a National Hindu conference. Indonesian Hindu delegates from Java, Borneo, Sumetra, Kalimantan, Madura and other islands had assembled at the Bali Hindu University campus for the 2 day conference. When the morning bell rang, I closed my room door and went for breakfast. One of the delegates introduced himself and told me in a sterm voice, 'I am sure you are visiting Bali for the first time'. I asked him how he could say so emphatically. He said that I had closed my room. I closed the room because I was carrying passport, US dollars, camera and tape recorder. He said all the delegates who have come from different

parts of Indonesia also carried valuables. But he asked me to see if any-one else had closed his room. To my great surprise all the other doors were open. At that point, the Indonesian delegate told me that this is Bali where theft is unheard of. All this is due to the influence of karma siddhanta of the Vedic heritage. We have forgotten our priceless legacy and they have preserved it in spite of centuries of separation.

I noticed there another astonishing fact also. I was staying at the residence of a local Hindu leader Prof. Dr Ida Bagus Oka Punyatmadja. He said he is a Brahmin but his elder brother who was Brahmin till last year has become a vaishya this year. I was completely confused. So far, my experience in Bharat was that one could change his religion but not his caste. Prof. Punyatmadja clarified that among Bali Hindus the caste goes with ones profession. His elder brother was Brahmin as long as he was in the teaching profession. But as soon as he started a hotel business he became a vaishya. The mother temple of the Bali Hindus is called Besaki temple and here I saw that while the Bali Hindu priest goes inside the temple precincts for doing pujas, only a shudra is allowed to enter the garbha griha for cleaning the area. I also found a big list of aspirant devotees who want to change to shudra caste to serve the Lord once the post becomes vacant.

In fact, this is what is written in our Bhagwad Gita *"Chaturvarnyam Maya Shrishtam Guna Karma vibhagashaha"* (The four varnas created by we are according to Guru and Karma) was delighted to see it being practiced to its letter and spirit in Bali Island.

Indonesia is the largest Muslim country in the world. Once, Indonesia invited Pakistan President Gen. Zia-ul Haq to preside over the passing out parade of their military officer trainees, Gen. Zia was visibly angry that all the officers were parading in front of a tall statue of Hanuman ji in their military academy premises and also took oath of office in front of the same statue. When questioned, the officials proudly proclaimed, "**we have changed our religion but not our culture or our forefathers**."

When Indonesia organized an International Ramayan festival and invited all Asian countries to send their Ramayana dance troupes, many Buddhist and Muslim countries sent their Ramayana artistes. Indian (Nehru) government refused to send any troupe saying that India is a secular country. (Same Indian government under Smt Indira Gandhi sent a delegation under Union Minister Fakruddin Ali Ahmed to Rabat in an International summit of Islamic nations even though no invitation was sent. This time the government explanation was that India has a bigger Muslim population than Pakistan, Bangladesh or most Islamic countries).

Ramayana, Sanskrit, Ayurveda, Hindu values, meditation, Hindu festivals, Hindu almanac, our puranas, dance, music, sculpture and arts remain the bedrock of the culture and existence of South East and Far East Asian countries for the past two thousand years. Many times it appears that they are more proud of this culture and value systems than we, Indian Hindus.

Hindu Influence In The West

ANCIENT PERIOD: Hinduism is fast influencing the Western world too. In the ancient past Hinduism influenced pre Greek and pre Roman Etruscan civilization. Wall frescoes and terracotta portraits of 700 BC show scenes from Ramayana. Extensive practice of divination, concepts like God permeates entire universe were due to Hindu influence. Later Etruscans passed on these values to Greek and Roman civilizations and it is no wonder that Greek and Roman languages and later many European languages like German, French, Scandinavian, Slavic languages have rich Sanskrit content. This richness of Sanskrit words in European languages gave a false impression to a few misguided Western scholars to put forth their Aryans invasion theory. In 600 BC, Greek scholar Pythagoras studied at Takshashila university. He carried with him three main branches of Bharateeya knowledge – ancient Indian mathematics (including the famous Pythogoras theorem), ancient Indian medical system and also Transmigration of the soul. These are now known as Pythagorean school of thought. The ancient and most fascinating animal stories narrated by Vishnu Dutt Sharma in Panchatantra were taken to west in the name of Aesop tales. These tales have influenced many intellectuals including Greek writers Plutarch and Lucian and Roaman scholars Horace, Demetrius Phalareus and Phaedrus in the 1st century and the 17th-century French poet and fabulist Jean de La Fontaine and the Russian Ivan Andreyevich Krylov. Aristotle, the guru of Alexander the great, asked Alexander to bring from Bharat six objects of veneration – Vedas and Bhagwad Gita, Ganga Water, Indian cow, yoga teacher, Hindu Brahmin and Ayurveda doctor.

Hinduism has influenced Western calendar and festivals. The religion of Persia 4,000 years back was known as Mithraism; they were Sun worshippers. Makar Sankranti, the Hindu festival of Lord Sun, which used to fall on 25th December was a holiday and known as Mithra day. Around 1000 BC the Egyptian Pharo ruler made sun worship compulsory and made 25th December a national holiday. From there it traveled to Europe and in the 10th century, Christians took this festival from Scottish pagans and called it Christmas day. Similarly Easter is a pagan festival in honor

of the spring goddess Eostre and has many things in common with Hindu spring festival Yugadi or Varsha Pratipada. Europe got the concepts of 7 days in a week, 12 months in a year, 365 days in a year, the concepts of 60 seconds, 60 minutes and 24 hours a day and 12 zodiac signs from the Hindu almanac called panchanga.

MEDIEVAL PERIOD: During the Islamic aggression period, scores of Hindu Banjaras (nomals) from Sind and Rajasthan left their lands in search of more peaceful areas. Today they are called the Gypsies, Romas or Sindis. Gypsy groups left India in repeated migrations. They were in Persia by the 11th century, in southeastern Europe by the beginning of the 14th, and in Western Europe by the 15th century. By the second half of the 20th century, Gypsies had spread throughout North and South America and to Australia. Today they number 2 to 5 millions.

Gypsies are worshippers of Mother Parvati. When a coastal town in France was deluged again and again, the local inhabitants sought the super natural powers of the Gypsies to pacify nature. The Gypsies placed a statue of their Goddess Mother Parvati in a local church and worshipped it for several months. The sea was peaceful all the time. When their time for migration came, the residents of the town fearing the fury of the sea, pleaded with the Gypsies to leave the statue in the church and called this statue of Mother Parvati as Mother Mary.

By nature they are peaceful, well versed in music, and hence have influenced several countries of Europe. Many of the European folk music, and village sports have been adopted from Gypsy traditions.

(During World War II, the Nazis murdered an estimated 4,00,000 Gypsies. French laws in modern times forbade them campsites and subjected them to police supervision, yet the Gypsies were taxed and drafted for military service like ordinary citizens. During the recent Bosnia conflict, hundreds of Gypsies were shot dead both by Muslim and Christian fighters.

Traditionally Gypsies have pursued occupations that allowed them to maintain an itinerant life on the perimeters of settled society. The men were livestock traders, animal trainers and exhibitors, tinkers (metal-smiths and utensil repairmen), and musicians; the women foretold fortunes, sold potions, begged, and worked as entertainers. Before the advent of veterinary medicine, many farmers looked to Gypsy livestock dealers for advice on herd health and husbandry. Damaged pots, pans, and metal utensils were saved for repair by the Gypsy tinker.)

MODERN PERIOD: With the advent of waves of brutal Islamic invasion, Bharat was engaged in near life and death struggle against the barbaric

aggressors for about 800 long years and lost touch with Europe. This contact was re-established when the Europeans established trade with India and formed the British East India Company in 1600, Dutch East India Company in 1602 and French East India company in 1664. As I told earlier Bhagwad Gita was first translated into English in prose-form by **Charles Wilkins** in 1785. Two years later in 1787 this book was re-translated into French language by **Abbe Parraud** and into Russian by **N.I. Norikov.** This Russian version influenced Lev Tolstoy as evidenced in most of his novels. **August Wilhelm von Schlegel** in 1823 AD produced the Latin translation of Bhagwad Gita.

France as a Centre of Hindu Studies: After Abbe Parraud's translation of Bhagwad Gita into French, Louis Matthieu Langles, curator of Oriental manuscripts at the Bibliothèque Nationale, documented Indic Research. In 1832, Gita was translated directly from Sanskrit original text into French by Jean-Denis Languinais. Henri Frédéric Amiel, a contemporary of Victor Hugo, saw the need of "**Brahmanising souls**" for the spiritual welfare of humanity. All these were possible due to the presence of Alexander Hamilton, a British Lieutenant and Sanskrit scholar who had served in India. He took up a job in Paris Library.

Sanskrit Studies in Germany: By the year 1800, Sanskrit or Oriental studies centers were functioning in at least 10 cities of Germany. In 1803 and 1804 German scholar **Fredrik Von Schlegel** (1772 – 1829) translated Indian epics and Laws of Manu. Indian works were taught in schools of higher learning in Europe by the early part of 19^{th} century. It may be noted that Schlegel brothers inspired the German Romantic movement along with Goethe.

Another German writer to be inspired by the study of the Vedas was Arthur Schopenhauer (1788-1860). He was one of the greatest philosophers of the 19th Century. He wrote: "***From every sentence (of the Upanishads) deep, original and sublime thoughts arise, and the whole is pervaded by a high, holy and earnest spirit.... In the whole world there is no study so beneficial and so elevating as that of the Upanishads. They are destined sooner or later to become the faith of the people..... These have been the solace of my life and will be the solace of my death.***"

In 1827 **Wilhelm von Humboldt** gave lectures on the Bhagavad Gita. He said of the Gita as the "most beautiful, perhaps the only true philosophical song existing in any known tongue.....perhaps the deepest and loftiest thing the world has to show."

Humboldt's discourse on Gita caught the attention of **George Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel**. Hegel published a review of it in 1827 that contributed

a critical and appreciative analysis. Hegel felt Humboldt's lecture to be "an essential enrichment of the knowledge of the Indian way of concepts of the highest spiritual interests" and his penetrating review served to promote Humboldt's work. Inspired by Bhagwat Gita, Hegel's philosophy that **"self-consciousness is the highest manifestation of reality"** has influenced most scholars in Europe since then. Most important among them was Karl Marx.

1750 to 1870 is regarded as the Romantic Era of European literature. This era was highly influenced by Bhagwad Gita, Upanishads and Mahakavi Kalidasa.

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (1749 – 1832) German writer and the greatest figure of the Romantic period and of German literature as a whole, was inspired by the Latin version of **Shakuntala** of **Maha Kavi Kalidas**. He strongly advocated receptivity to Indian literatures and sought a rapprochement with Eastern culture. He in turn influenced the European romantic poets like William Wordsworth, John Keats and PB Shelly.

Max Friedrich Muller (1823 – 1900) popularized vedas in the West through his well researched commentaries and translations. For his massive contribution to Sanskrit studies in the west, Swami Vivekanand compared him to sage Vidyaranya. In the name of Bible and proselytizing Hindu India, Thomas Babbington Macaulay (1800 – 1859) was able to persuade Max Muller to write in his later years, many articles condemning and criticizing Hinduism.

Hindu Influence in England: In England itself, Charles Wilkins translated Sanskrit grammar in 1787. He also translated a few other books including Grammar of Sanskrit language and Hitopadesa. In 1784, William Jones formed the Asiatic Society. **Sir Edwin Arnold** composed "**Song Celestial**" a poetic translation of Bhagwad Gita in 1885 exactly one hundred years after its first prose translation. In 1891 **George Augustus Jacob** compiled **an alphabetical index of the main words of sixty-six principal Upanishads and the Bhagavad Gita.** Roamntic poets like William Wordsworth, John Keats, PB Shelly and William Blake appreciated the Hindu views of divinity in nature and respect for womanhood and glorified these values through their poems. The concept of rebirth, 'karma', universal soul, immortality and incarnation make the fascination of romantic poets with the Gita quite apparent.

Hindu Influence in America: America's poet Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882) resigned from his pastoral appointment as minister of the Second Church (Unitarian) of Boston in 1832 because of personal doubts about administering the **sacrament of the Lord's Supper**. He toured

England, where he met several British writers, including **Walter Savage Landor, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, Thomas Carlyle, and William Wordsworth** who introduced him to Charles Wilkins translation of Bhagwad Gita. This had a deep influence on him. In 1836 he published essays, such as Nature and formed the Transcendental Club in Boston based on the universal principles contained in the Bahgwad Gita and the Upanishads.

Transcendentalism opposed the **strict ritualism and dogmatic theology of established religious** institutions. Primarily, the transcendentalists were influenced by romanticism, especially such aspects as **self-examination,** celebration of individualism, and extolling the beauties of nature and humankind. Consequently, transcendentalist writers expressed semi-religious feelings toward nature, as well as the creative process, believing that **divinity permeated all objects**. Intuition, rather than reason, was regarded as the highest human faculty.

In 1845, Emerson's Journal records that he was reading the Bhagavad Gita and Colebrooke's Essays on the Vedas. On Gita he said : "***I owed a magnificent day to the Baghawat Gita. It was the first of books ; as if it were an empire spoke to us, nothing small or unworthy, but large serene consistent voice of an old intelligence which in another age and climate had pondered and thus disposed of the same questions which exercise us***".

R.W. Emerson is regarded as the central figure of American transcendentalism. His poems, orations, and especially his essays, such as *Nature* (1836), are regarded as landmarks in the development of American thought and literary expression.

American writer **Henry David Tho·reau (**1817-1862) is also respected as a seminal figure in the history of American thought. He spent much of his life in Concord, Massachusetts, where he became associated with the New England transcendentalist movement formed by Emerson. He read Vedas and appreciated the universal spirit contained in it.

American Philosopher Henry David Thoreau (1817-1862) on Hinduism:

(i) "*Whenever I have read any part of the Vedas, I have felt that some unearthly and unknown light illuminated me. In the great teaching of the Vedas, there is no touch of sectarianism. It is of all ages, climes and nationalities and is the royal road for the attainment of the Great Knowledge. When I am at it, I feel that I am under the spangled heavens of a summer night.*"......

(ii) "*I cannot read a sentence in the book of the Hindus without being elevated as upon the table-land of the Ghats. It has such a rhythm as the*

winds of the desert, such a tide as the Ganges, and seems as superior to criticism as the Himalayan Mounts. Even at this late hour, unworn by time with a native and inherent dignity it wears the English dress as indifferently as the Sanskrit."

(iii) *"I would say to the readers of the Scriptures, if they wish for a good book, read the Bhagvat-Geeta.... translated by Charles Wilkins. It deserves to be read with reverence even by Yankees...."Besides the Bhagvat-Geeta, our Shakespeare seems sometimes youthfully green... Ex oriented lux may still be the motto of scholars, for the Western world has not yet derived from the East all the light it is destined to derive thence."*

Walt Whitman (1819 – 1892) another transcendentalist was yet another great American poet who believed in the self, viewed death as a process of life and craved for universal brotherhood. **Mrs. Sarah Margaret Fuller** another activist of the Transcendentalist movement organized a gathering of women beginning from 1839 in Boston to argue for women's rights in *Women in the Nineteenth Century* (1845). Fuller gained recognition as one of the foremost critics in the United States.

Boston Brahmins a circle of intellectually and socially cultivated Bostonians was another influential group that shaped the early days of American thoughts. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807-1882), Oliver Wendell Holmes 1809-1894 and James Russell Lowell (1819 – 1891) were among them. Transcendentalists and Boston Brahmins are regarded as the founding fathers of American philosophy, thought process and heritage.

Ever since West woke up to the thought that disease is mental in origin and right attitude has a healing effect, Yoga and meditation have been growing by leaps and bounds. There is no missionary zeal by Indians to spread Yoga, Christian churches are hell bent against it and yet Yoga and meditation have been on the rise exponentially. Over 10% in most Western countries practise meditation for the simple fact that it works. No doubt BKS Iyengar stands tall in its promotion. He ranks one amongst 100 most outstanding personalities who have influenced USA in the last 100 years. In fact yoga is more popularly known there as Iyengar Yoga. Recently Australian cricket team defeated India in India after a long gap of 30 years. The secret of their success was the practice of Yoga as explained by Justin Langer, their opening batsman. Space astronauts are taught lessons in Yoga before they embark on the journey into regions where there is no gravity and hence any other form of exercise is not possible.

Ever since medical field has coined the word 'Cholesterol' and found its evil effects on health, vegetarianism is growing and vegetarian cuisines

have become most sought after diets in the Western world. Here too 10 to 15% youth in America practise vegetarianism. With AIDS and HIV threatening to wipe out mankind from the face of this globe, large size bill boards proclaim the Ramayana message of "one man one wife." Hindu practice of cremating the dead is more in vogue all over the developed nations. Great advancements made in medical fields confirm the Ayurvedic principles of Tridoshas and Trigunas. Hinduism is entering every sphere of the Western world even though there has been very little campaign on the part of Indian Hindus.

In the computing field, scientists working on Artificial Intelligence have stumbled upon the fact that Sanskrit is the most friendly computer language in the world because of the way the Sanskrit alphabets are formed.

Nuclear scientists trying to find the one principle that governs the entire universe, are studying Upanishads and Bhagwad Gita with great devotion. They are busy trying to find an equivalent of Brahman on the physical plane.

After the first successful nuclear explosion on July 16, 1945, at Alamogordo, USA, journalists and scientists who had gathered, wanted to hear from Dr Julius Robert Oppenheimer, the physicist and science administrator, and director of the atom bomb project. Dr Oppenheimer took everyone by surprise by quoting verses from Bhagwad Gita – ***"DIVI SURYASAHASRASYA BHAVED YUGAPADA UTTHITĀ YADI BHĀH SADRSĪ SĀ SYĀD BHĀSASTASYA MAHĀTMANAH"*** || (If the light of a thousand suns were to blaze forth all at once in the sky, that might resemble the splendour of that Exalted Being). [Bhagavad Gita 11-12].

German Physicist. W.HEISENBERG (1901-1976), a 1932 Nobel laureate who worked on sub-atomic particles, widely acknowledged as one of the seminal thinkers of the 20th century, has this to say on Hinduism.

"After the conversations about Indian Philosophy, some of the ideas of Quantum Physics, that had seemed so crazy, suddenly made much more sense."

Dr. Albert Einstein was also a passionate follower of Hindu philosophy:

"We owe a lot to Indians, who taught us how to count, without which no worthwhile scientific discovery could have been made.": "I have made the Gita as the main source of my inspiration and guide for the purpose of scientific investigations and formation of my theories." said **Albert Einstein.**

Nobel Laureate Edwin Schrödinger, the father of Quantum Physics also was devoted to Vedanta.

If with very little effort on the part of Hindus, various aspects of Hinduism are catching the imagination of the educated and unbiased Western thinkers, how much more can be achieved if only Hindus become aware of the intrinsic values of Hinduisim and feel rightly proud of it!

From Limited Tools to Greater Resources

An interesting development is taking place these days: Many foreigners have taken inspiration from Bhagavad Gita and they are making efforts to promote it. Once upon a time we were fighting our battles all alone. But now with these educated and resourceful persons joining Hindu forces, our strength has increased. Every time some one utters uncharitable remarks on India or Hinduism, Francois Gautier (the French journalist based in India) gives a fitting reply. Some of our people have been sold out to the foreign media. But Francois Gautier is there. Koenraad Elst and Michel Danino are there. They are a special breed of people who have been inspired by Hindu philosophy and Hindu way of life.

Some years back, **Bettino Craxi**, Prime Minister of Italy, was to come to India. Rajiv Gandhi was worried. He had not invited him. According to international protocol, unless a prime minister invites another prime minister he cannot enter another country. But here Italy's Prime Minister was coming to India uninvited. And any prime minister who comes to Bharat should come to Delhi first. But he was going straight to Bangalore. Rajiv Gandhi, made a phone call and asked, "How come you are coming to India when I have not invited you? Please let me know what is your agenda". Italy's Prime Minister replied "I am not coming for any political or economic activity. I am coming to meet my spiritual master and seek his blessings. I am going to Puttapurthi to meet Shri Satya Sai Baba, because elections are round the corner in Italy".

Martin Brian Mulroney, Prime Minister of Canada, had another predicament. He said, "America is in cold war with Russia and all those who support Russia. India is a supporter of Russia and therefore, I, as a prime minister of Canada, a good friend of America, cannot go to India. Therefore I am not going to contest the next election. For, as long as I am Prime minister, I cannot go to India". When asked why he was so desperate to visit India, he replied, "two of my sisters, Margaret and Katherine have become Hindus. They are serving their spiritual master in Himalayas. Margaret has already become Madhurima and she is a sanyasinee there. I asked her to return to Canada. But she said, '*I have taken Diksha. I have to be here for some more years. Till I complete my course I cannot*

return. So it is better you come to Bharat'. I want to meet my sisters. I have to go to India. I cannot go there as prime minister of Canada and so I am refraining from contesting the next elections".

The **royal family** in Buckingham Palace, U.K, always have some problem or the other. We are familiar with that. Charles is running after some girl. Dianna is running after some man. With all these dealings appearing in the front pages of newspapers, where will they find peace? They phoned the nearest Ramakrishna mutt and requested the Swamiji there, "We need peace of mind. We want to come and meet you". Swami ji said, "Ok, come in the evening for Bhajan or Satsangh. Come at 4 O'clock for a cup of tea". The royal family members said, " No, no, no. We cannot come there in day time. The paparazzi will be after us. We want to hide from them. We will take appointment at three in the night". They came seeking his blessings at that odd hour.

Whenever Swami Chinmayananda went to **Bahrain**, the **family members of Sheikh** arranged special discourses. **Mrs Anwar Sadat** of Egypt comes to Mount Abu, Bharat every year to specialize on meditation and spread the same globally. World's richest industrialists Alan Ford and Rockefeller are active members of ISKCON and have donated a large part of their wealth and properties for the propagation of Hinduism. Alan Ford got married in Sydney in a typical Hindu style sporting a white ḍhoti. His wedding video is being circulated to stress the point that happy married life is possible only by following Vedic principles. David Frawley, Stephen Knapp are very learned scholars of vedic lore. They also are well versed in the Western art of impressive writing as well. When Goh Chek Tong, Prime Minister of Singapore, addressed the joint session of Senators of USA in 2003, he did not highlight the economic progress of Singapore or USA or China but dwelt on the economic and political might of Bharat.

BKS Iyengar has many trained Arab yoga experts who start their yoga classes in Arab countries with a prayer to Rishi Patanjali. Many Chinese disciples of Swami Satchitananda (himself a disciple of Swami Shivananda) in Hong Kong propagate yoga, meditation and Hindu bhajans to Chinese people. When Ramli Ibrahim of Malaysia went to Australia for higher studies he learnt Bharata Natyam from a Hindu master. He is now an accomplished artiste and performs in front of VIPs and foreign dignitaries. He starts his performance with a prayer and prostration in front of a Lord Nataraja statue right in front of the audience. Some Malays objected to this form of idol worship by a Malay Muslim. When confronted by fanatics, Ramli threatened to forgo his Malaysian passport for an Australian one. At this point, the government intervened and allowed him to perform his public

worships. Another Malaysian, Chandra Bhanu, teaches Bharata Natyam to many including Hindu children in Melbourne.

So, from small tools we Hindus have acquired great sources. Now Hindus are asserting themselves more openly. Seventy years back, a prominent person of this country, Motilal Nehru, said, "I am a Hindu. I am ashamed of it. I am a Hindu because of the crimes committed by me in my previous birth". His illustrious son Jawaharlal Nehru said, "I am a Hindu by accident of birth." But things have changed later. Whenever Indira Gandhi had a problem, she used to go to Tirupati temple or she would go rushing to Kanchipuram, to get the blessings of Paramacharya. Her son Rajiv Gandhi, wanted to release the election manifesto before the elections; he did not do it from Delhi; he went all the way to Ayodhya for that.

Our Shortcomings

We have our own weaknesses too and we have a lot to learn from the West. They care a lot for society than we do. We do not know our friends and foes. Our media and politicians are spitting venom on our own leaders and people. We revere film and cricket icons more than Kargil heroes and freedom fighters. We lack knowledge of our achievements, our ancient glory and are therefore lack the just self esteem.

Conclusion

Today we are living in a unique world. Some years back we had two super powers – Russia and America. People used to remark, if America sneezes the entire Europe will catch cold, because they were its satellites. But today with America being the only super power, if America sneezes the whole world ought to catch flue. Most people are wary of power mongering America and Communist China. They will prefer India to emerge as a balancing power. India, in 10,000 years, has not colonized any country, nor has it exploited any country economically nor degraded other cultures or religions. India has always stood for peace and hence people world over want a strong Bharat.

The overall picture of the Hindu society is bright and positive. India is on the verge of becoming a super power. Today America is afraid of outsourcing to India and China is afraid of Indian goods capturing Chinese market. Our society has woken from its thousand year slumber. Hindus are asserting themselves as Hindus and are excelling in many international fields. 2,00,000 Hindus in America are millionaires. America cannot maintain its superiority and advancements in every field without Indian scientists and intellectuals. Hence, the talk of India being invited to become a permanent member of UN Security Council is very thick in the air.

Now, the frequently asked question is, what should we do now? There are two things we have to do in a planned way - remove poverty and illiteracy from Bharat and ennoble the world with Hindu values. To enable us to realize these goals, knowledgeable persons should support the sincere effects of RSS, VHP, Vanavasi Seva Kendram, Ekal Vidyalaya and Seva Bharati. Let us be a little more altruistic.

See how Kofi Annan, the Secretary General of United Nations had advised the Hindus at the Millennium Religious Peace Summit in August 2000. United Nations had organized the Summit to herald the new millennium. 2,000 religious leaders from all over across the globe belonging to all major religions were invited and were asked to say how peace can be achieved on this planet. Muslim and Christian leaders said that peace is possible if all the people convert themselves to their religions. Hindu and Buddhist religious seers opposed this idea and said according to their religious tenets peace can be achieved without conversions, by educating mankind on universal moral and ethical values. Ted Turner, the CNN chief, was the main sponsor of this prestigious gathering. After listening to the talks of all the religious leaders Ted Turner spoke his heart out. He said when he was a small boy of 10 years, he once asked a priest, "father, what about millions of good people who were born before Christ was born? Will they go to heaven?". The Reverend replied in the negative. Ted again asked father what their fault was and the father replied they are being punished to eternal hell for being born before Jesus was born. Then Ted asked the priest, "Father, what about millions of good and noble persons who belong to other religions; will they go to heaven?" Again the father replied in the negative and asserted that the gates of heaven are open only to those who have accepted Jesus as their saviour. On hearing this, 10 year old Ted said, "Then heaven will be a lonely place and I will be missing many of my friends. I do not want to be in such a forlorn place."

Concluding the Summit, Kofi Annan said that while Hinduism has many universal and sublime principles, Hindus have kept these values to themselves. In the interest of world peace, he urged the one billion Hindus to educate the rest 5 billion non-Hindus on the universal and transcendent principles of Hinduism without converting them. The same faith was reposed earlier by the English historian, **Arnold Joseph Toynbee**, (1889–1975) when he said,

"At this supremely dangerous moment in human history, the only way of salvation is the ancient Indian way. Here we have the attitude

and spirit that can make it possible for the human race to grow together into a single family".

This, in fine, is the expectation of world leaders. Our world mission enshrined in our primordial holy Vedas is "Krinvanto Vishwam Aryam" (**Let us ennoble this world**). The task is easy now. When the Middle East countries were strong, they gave impetus for Islam to spread far and wide. Similarly, when Europe became strong militarily, it helped Christianity to spread its wings. Now that Hindu India is fast becoming a super power, it should help advance the noble Hindu cause.

The world is looking for peace and benediction. Over a period of years of slavery, we Hindus have forgotten our world mission. We have to save this world from war mongering politicians, despotic dictators and religious bigots. The Bhagwa Dhwaj, saffron flag, is a symbol of this primeval world mission. Let us imbibe a little more self-pride. Let us resolve to educate the 5 billion non-Hindus on the noble values represented by Bhagwa Dhwaj. Let us remind ourselves of our duty on this auspicious occasion to make Bhagwa Dhwaj the Spiritual Flag of the world.

BHART MATA KI JAI

Annexure – I

"BHARAT WILL OVERTAKE CHINA"

The prestige of Bharat rose manifold overnight after Bharat exploded the Atom Bomb circumventing the US satellite surveilance on May 11, 1998 at Pokharan, Rajasthan. The 2 crore Indians living abroad began feeling proud of being Indians. The then US Ambassador commented on India going nuclear thus: "The culture suppressed for a 1,000 years bursts forth and it cannot be stopped". World media started saying that India would overtake China. Press in India began writing in similar vein only after that. US Ambassador to China once remarked, "India has never invaded any country so far. But it ruled over the hearts of the Chinese for a 1,000 years". A trade delegation that visited China in 1952 met chairman Mao Tse Dung. Mao asked the members of the delegation what was their impression of the Chinese. They replied that Buddhist influence is prevalent among the people of China. On this, Mao informed, **"The average Chinese wants to be born in India in the next birth",** leaving the Indian delegation pleasantly surprised.

Colman Sox, a US analyst says, "India will overtake China in economics in 2045". But 'London Times' adds, "India will overtake not alone China but all the countries in the world by 2045. Not only in economy but in every sphere".

(Based on a report published in 'Vijaya Bharatham', Chennai – 31, dated July 30, 2004 of ***Shri. S. Gurumurthy's*** *lecture in Tamil at a Guru Pooja Utsav of RSS at Chennai).*

Annexure – II

A HINDU CONCEPT TRANSFORMS WESTERN LIVES

Dr. Brian Weis is a Miami-based psychiatrist. He is also a past president of the Mount Sinar Medical Centre, Miami, an institute of Psychiatry. He has authored a book 'MANY LIVES MANY MASTERS' in 1988. It has undergone 12 editions since. A million copies of the book have been sold out.

This book is a record of an experience that changed his life. He was giving treatment to a patient by name Katherine suffering from nightmares. He resorted to hypnotism as all other methods failed. In the hypnotised state, details of Katherine's previous births were revealed to her. The book is just a record of all those findings.

A few samples: Katherine says, 'I had taken 86 previous births. In BC 1863 (that is 3,846 years ago), I was Aronada. Cleostra was my daughter. In this birth, she is Rachael (her elder brother's daughter). In AD 1756, I was born in Spain. I was a prostitute. In another birth, Dr. Weis was my teacher'. (This reminds the doctor of the fact that souls take rebirth in groups and settle their Karma accounts in subsequent births).

Says the doctor, a scientist and agnostic, that his life underwent a thorough change, on learning of the rebirth experiences of his patient, a Catholic who does not know anything about the Hindu concept of rebirth. The patient was relieved of her pestering stress and nightmares. The doctor too has "started practising dhyana like Hindus". He says he has overcome greed and fear of death now.

*(Based on an article by **Shri S. Gurumurthy** in his column in THUGLAK, Tamil Weekly, dated July 2, 2003)*

BHARAT IS *PUNYA BHOOMI* FOR THE GERMAN LADY

It was a death wish that did not go unfulfilled. Born in Germany and suffering from cancer, Smt. Hildegard Jacob (48) took final rest at 'Swargadwar'. After her body was consigned to the flames on Wednesday, December 22, 2004, her ashes were immersed in the sea as per her last wish, a ritual hitherto done only for Hindus. Her sobbing mother said Jacob's wish was to lie in peace in Puri, Orissa, Bharat. At an advanced stage of cancer, Jacob knew her end was nearing, says Nalini Barik, a guide who was with Jacob till her death. Everyday she used to offer prayer to Lord Jagannath from outside the temple. And she never missed visiting Swargadwar at night. She had installed idols of Devi Mangala, Radhakrishna and Lord Jagannath in her house and was conducting bhajan sessions, herself playing the cymbal. Her pain turned acute towards the end, and she breathed her last on December 19. When her family at Friesothe in Durach, Germany, was informed, the parents said they were aware of her desire to be cremated at Puri. In a fax message to Puri police, the German consulate also gave permission for the cremation. Nalini, along with locals, took her body to Swargadwar and consigned it to flames.

Based on a report in THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS, December 24, 2004

Annexure – III

IT: India's key is quality

As Americans fret about cheap labour abroad, the real issue has become not one of lower price but quality and scale - India is on the move to outmaneuver its US competitions on a stunning array of fronts, says a new book.

As more and more US firms turn to India, outsourcing has begun to shake the foundations of the American upper middle class. In a twist that highlights the new era, Americans are now even beginning to select India as the place for quality medical care, at a much lower price,' says the book 'Rising Elephant' by Ashutosh Sheshabalaya.

Starting out as service providers for American customers some 15 years back, domestic Indian software firms paid great attention to the quality of their work. By 1996, there were more software firms in India certified to ISO-9000 quality norms of the International Standard Organisation than there were in the US, says Sheshabalaya, a Europe-based technology consultant. However, the best indicator of India's quality lead is the massive lead they obtained in acquiring Capability Maturity Model (CMM) certifications from the US Defence Department backed Software Engineering Institute at Carneige-Mellon University, billed as the 'global standard' for defect-free software, he says. Way back in 1999, Business Week had warned, 'If US software companies don't get with it in terms of quality - they could kiss big chunks of business good bye. India's competitive advantage will be quality - the virutal examination of software bugs that infest US made packaged software'. A year later, a paper from University of Virgina observed that an Indian company had developed a CMM process which was better than the Space Shuttle's software. The paper also observed that this process had enabled American corporations like Raytheon to slash the cost of quality from 60 per cent of software development costs to just 10 percent.

Seshabalaya says India's overwhelming lead in software quality remains. According to figures from US Software Engineering Institute (SET), IT firms in India accounted for 50 out of 74 CMM level 5 certificates worldwide in 2003.

This is in spite of the fact that American firms made six time higher applications for CMM certification - 1671 against 238 from India, says the book. SEI figures also show that several American software giants have their CMM level in the US. This also indicates the core nature of their Indian effort and their inextricable commitment to the country. It also underscores the irreversibility of India's ascension in software, says the book.

'This, then is the crux of Indian challenge' says the author. It cites a report in Daily Telegraph, 'It is attacking the US economy where it hurts, slap-bang in the middle of its technological supremacy'.

(About the Book: Rising Elephant; By Ashutosh Seshabalaya; Published by Macmillan India Ltd; Price Rs. 275, PP 322)

(From a book-review in News Today, December 24,2004)

Annexure – IV

GLOBAL HINDUTVA

The anecdotes in this section, throwing light on the Hindu genius that enriches life, heightens awareness and ennobles mankind around the globe, are selected from *Panchaamrltam*, a fortnightly online news-letter of goodnews anecdotes circulated by Media Centre, Chennai (vskchennai@vsnl.net):

1. While the microbiology department of the University of Kuopio in Finland is doing an impact assessment of cow urine on allergies induced by animal allergens, Shri. Virendra Jain of Indore, Madhya Pradesh, Bharat, buys 50 litres of cow urine from dairies, filters it by distillation and distributes it to the persons with various ailments from 'stomach trouble' to cancer who queue up in front of his house every morning. Three years back, Shri. Jain says, he had treated his mother's cancer after 'doctors' gave up all hope. She survived and got rid of the cancer completely.

(Based on an OFFTRACK item carried by INDIA TODAY, May.21, 2001).

2. During World War II, in early 1940s, Japanese forces bombarded Burma(Myanmar). Among several sections of the population which fled in haste was the Nagarathar community originally hailing from Chettinadu in Tamilnadu, Bharat. The main occupation of many belonging to Nagarathar community was pawnbroking (moneylending against mortgaged jewels). While fleeing for life, Nagarathar men carried along ornaments mortgaged with them by the Burmese. They trekked nearly 1,000 miles. Once in their native Chettinadu, these pawnbrokers appointed Gorkhas as security persons and protected the jewels during riots and robberies rampant in Chettinadu in 1942. Later, with permission from the Reserve Bank of India, they carried the jewels back to Rangoon and other places in Burma and meticulously returned every piece of jewellery to its owner to the utter surprise of the latter. For all this, it must be pointed out, on mere trust most moneylending transactions had been going on! It is a rock edict commandment in Velangudi, a village deep inside Chettinadu (now in Sivaganga district) that has instilled the inspiring trait of honesty in those Nagarathar moneylenders.

(Based on a reference in 'CHETTINADUM SENTAMILUM', a book by Somale published in 1984 by Vanathi, Chennai-600 017; Page 601).

3. The following letter appeared in "Dear Abby," a syndicated column published in hundreds of U.S. newspapers: "Dear Abby, I am a Hindu woman living in the 'Bible Belt' [southern USA]. Many of my friends and acquaintances are Christians, and they are all wonderful — except for one thing. Some try in small, subtle ways to convert me to their faith. With Christmas approaching,

I know what's coming — boxes of baked goodies with little brochures and pamphlets tucked inside all about Jesus and the Christian faith. I wish you would remind people that all of us in this diverse nation should respect the faiths of others. To try to convert someone to your faith implies that you consider your religious beliefs superior, and that is just plain wrong. I know these gestures are well meant, but I wouldn't dream of sending Hindu brochures with my holiday goodies. Abby, what is a tactful, but firm, way of dealing with this?" Signed, Happy Hindu In The Bible Belt. Abby's response: Dear Happy Hindu, much as you would like, you are not going to change people who feel it's part of their religious commitment to "save" you. Ignore the brochures and enjoy the goodies.

(Based on a CHICAGO TRIBUNE (December 21, 2002) feature under headline 'American Advice Columnist Responds To A Hindu's Concern').

4. A Jabalpur (Madhya Pradesh, Bharat) boy has literally had his niche carved in the galaxy for his brilliant invention. The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), US, has named '12509 Pathak' - a recently spotted minor planet between Mars and Jupiter - after Madhav Pathak - a Class X student. "We feel proud to name the minor planet discovered by LINEAR programme in honour of students and teachers recognised by Science Service Programmes", says a letter from the Lincoln Laboratory, US. Pathak has earned the rare honour for his innovation 'Nova Front Face Braille Writer' that helps the visually handicapped to read and write from left to right like a normal person. The visually impaired person writes from right to left and then turns over the punched paper sheet to read what is written.The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research(CSIR) of India has got this invention of Madhav patented as co-assignee. Pathak is being awarded first prize, carrying Rs 50,000 cash at the CSIR Diamond Jubilee Awards, for 'Invention of School Children'. He has also bagged the World Intellectual Research Organisation (WIPO) Award for the "Outstanding Student Inventor". (Yoga master of world renown, Shri. B.K.S. Iyengar too had been honoured likewise years back. The Ministry of Federal Star Registration, USA, had named a star in the northern hemisphere after the master).

5. There are more than enough signs pointing to India Inc taking its place on the global map. Take for example the recent case Dr Reddy's Lab won against Pfizer challenging its patents for Norvasc (a billion drug). The victory of Reddy's was written about by every Wall Street pharma-ceutical analyst of significance. It also had an impact on Pfizer's share price. AN Indian company today has the audacity and resources to challenge a global industry leader over a billion dollar product in the US courts, to win a summary judgement and to knock billions of dollars off the market capitalization of the global leader.

6. "Namaste," Om Dutta Sharma, 65, said standing at the gate of his school, sweetly bidding farewell to 180 little girls returning home after school. For 20 years, Mr. Sharma has been a taxi driver in New York. He has been saving his tips; has never taken his wife out to eat; the couple sparingly spent on new clothes for their sons Mrs.Sharma packs lunch for her kids when they go to school so that they need not spend anything at the canteen – all this to make this act of goodness possible: Mr. Sharma has given his village Dhoober Kishenpur in Saharanpur district near Delhi in Bharat, a school for girls. He has named it after his illiterate mother, Ram Kali. Mr. Sharma and his wife, Krishna, a nurse at Bellevue Hospital Center, contribute the $2,500 a year it costs to run the school. The two-story brick house, Mr. Sharma's ancestral property, is now filled with first to fifth graders laboriously scratching out their lessons in chalk. The Sharmas can afford to educate and care for these farmers' daughters because money buys more here than in New York. To hire a local doctor to give the girls regular check-ups, Mr. Sharma spent $500 more from the earnings of a mango orchard he planted years ago when he and his brother inherited the family plot. The Sharmas live in Woodside, Queens, USA. In New York, Mr. Sharma is just a cabby. In India, a school's hero.

(From a NEW YORK TIMES article (January 23, 2000) by CELIA W.DUGGER) .

7. Let us listen to Lord Navneet Dholakia, Member, House of Lords, Britain: "On 21 October 1997, I was elected to the House of Lords, the upper house in the British parliament. When I reached the House of Lords, a friend of mine, an Englishman, said, 'Please give your bag to me, I shall carry it'. I handed him the bag. Observing a smile on my face, he asked 'why are you smiling?' 'Not because you have lessened the load by carrying the bag, but because I feel particularly happy today', I told him and continued, 'our forefathers used to carry the bags of you people 250 years back. Now, you are carrying the load for me. Today, we all have become equals'." Shri. Dholakia was recently in Bharat to receive the honour at the Pravasi Bharatiya (NRI) conclave in Delhi. "I value this honour as far more than the Order of British Empire that the Queen of Britain has awarded to me. I am proud to be a British citizen, but the pride of being a Bharatiya is far greater," the Lord further observed after receiving the honour.

(Coutesy: RASHTRA DEV, a Hindi fortnightly of Dehradun, Uttaranchal, Bharat; dated February 15, 2003).

8. Plug your TV into the WICE box and a fluorescent green menu prompts you to select from live channels, Video-on-Demand (VOD), MP3 music, chat and learning, email and SMS. The joy comes from knowing that you pay only

for the TV channels you watch! VOD lets you watch your choice of movie at your convenience. You can fast-forward, rewind or pause, as if it's your own mini-movie theatre. Stunned yet? There's more. Such as unlimited MP3 titles. You can also use the Karaoke function and re-record classics using your own voice. The icing on this huge cake is the email and chat without an Internet connection. When Anupam, Divinet's multilingual software expert (and also the brain behind CDAC's GIST technology), actually sent an email to me on my cellular phone using the TV set I was viewing, I began looking at it as if it were the eighth wonder of the world. The email can be in any Indian language, you can chat online (when you're not actually 'online'), and even see the person you're talking to if you choose video-conferencing. Your email address is Yourname.number@DivinetAccess.com, incorporating a unique identification number for every user. Developed by P R Eknath, Sanjay Wandhekar, and B P Narayan — founder members of CDAC, brains behind India's PARAM-supercomputer, and currently the management team at Divinet Access Technologies Ltd, Pune — this little gizmo is no larger than an overhead projector. Called the WICE (Window for Information, Communication and Entertainment) Box, or WICEMAN, it is Eknath's brainchild; his dream of creating a generic platform that can run any application. The best thing is, it is a boon to India's Net users. Divinet received USD 150,000 as prize money, thanks to the first E-Biz challenge award instituted by Dubai Internet City for world-class innovative e-business ideas. "We do not have any competitors yet. This technology is the first of its kind", says Narayanan, CEO-MD, Divinet. If it works, our TVs will never be the same again.

(Based on a 'Rediff on the Net' news item. Author: Nikita Agarwal. Date: March 20, 2003).

9. At the Hannover fair in Germany, one of the largest engineering fairs in the world which opened on Monday, April 7, 2003. ELGI Equipments Ltd (EEL), one of the largest manufacturers of air compressors in Bharat, is showcasing what it claims to be "the world's smallest screw air compressor." Air compressors are used in sectors such as engineering, automobile, railways, defence, mines, textiles, construction, etc that needed air compressors to operate pneumatic tools, to start engines, lift, etc. Since the new screw air compressor is portable, companies can save on the infrastructure needed for operating conventional air compressors. The manufacture of such a compressor, which weigh only about 2 kg and is 4x4x4 inches in size, proves that Bharat can achieve a high level of sophistication in product development, an official of EEL asserted.

Based on a The Hindu BUSINESS LINE news item.

10. Adam Osborne, as you may know, was the co-founder of Apple computers (along with Steve Jobs). A few years back, he wrote for *Dataquest* magazine, *inter alia*, thus: "I was raised in Tamilnadu in South India, in the ashram of Sri Ramana Maharishi, My English father and Polish mother were dedicated followers of Sri Ramana Maharishi. After all, how could anyone, even an English boy, grow up in Tiruvannamalai, in the ashram of Sri Ramana Maharishi, and not acquire a pride in his roots? I was surrounded by Indians who were proud of their nationality and heritage. They believed they had a lot to teach us Europeans. (Here the reference is to the ordinary Indian, the Indian proud of his nation). It is therefore with some misgivings that today I find myself dealing with Indians, many of whom do not feel proud of their Indianness. Indian Americans represent the wealthiest minority in America, ahead of Jewish Americans and Japanese Americans. This is a statistic and not an opinion. Indians are recognized throughout America as technically superior. Since the day Indians learn pride, India will rapidly move out of its third world status to become one of the world's industrial powers."(Osborne returned to Bharat in search of solace and died in Kodaikkanal near Madurai).

11. March 12, 2003 was proclaimed Narayan Kataria Day in Queens County, New York. The office of the President, Borough of Queens, Helen M. Marshall, issued a Declaration of Honor in favor of Shri. **Narayan Kataria**, a Hindu leader, freelance writer and organizer who has worked for the last 25 years selflessly to promote and propagate Hindu view point in USA. Narayan is fired with a zeal to unite and organize Hindu society. Narayan is connected with a dozen organizations in New York City. He is the founder of Indian American Intellectual Forum, a group based in New York, which has been organizing seminars and serving to strengthen Indo-American ties. The Declaration acknowledges Narayan Kataria as a dedicated community organizer. This was at the Hindu festival of Phagwah (Holi) organized by the Caribbean Hindus at Queens Borough Hall. Through his outstanding work, Narayan has made lasting contributions to the social, cultural and economic fabric of the borough and beyond. Messages from the Mayor of the New York City and the Governor of the New York State were also read.

Courtesy: ORGANIZER (May 4, 2003) Weekly, New Delhi

12. One of the central messages of the management guru, **C.K.Prahalad**, to the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) during the first week of May, as on previous occasions, was that India Inc's biggest problem is that it has consistently been underestimating its own potential. Dr Prahalad's way of pressing his point home is to present a series of examples in order to show just how competitive Bharat can be. For those who say Bharat simply cannot develop new products since it does not have the technological skills, he cites

the examples of Telco's Indica and Mahindra & Mahindra's Scorpio - both are new pro/ducts developed autonomously, at a fraction of the cost of buying finished technology overseas, and in a sense these have catapulted Bharat into the league of countries where advanced engineering can be done at low cost. Indeed, the prospectus for the public share offer by Maruti Udyog talks of how Suzuki plans to use Maruti as one of the only R&D centres that it has outside of Japan. For those who say Bharat cannot compete with China's low costs since it doesn't have a large enough domestic market, Prof. Prahalad cites the example of Aravind Netralayam (he calls it Aravind Eye Hospital) where the cost of a lens implant is just $16; this compares with more than $1,000 in US hospitals. Similar is the instance of the Jaipur Foot, which fits prostheses for as little as $30 (against $10,000 in the US). Dr Prahalad argues that Bharatiyas don't celebrate their small victories enough, certainly not publicly, and that's why good ideas don't spread and/or inspire others. That's true too; too many Indians spend more time on the bad news than on the good.

From a report in the BUSINESS STANDARD of May 1, 2003.

13. "The angles of the pyramid are the same as angles of the ancient Sri Chakras," explains **R.K Muthukrishnan,** Founder of the Sri Chakra's Anthro Uni Biometric Research and Development Center, Chennai, with an air of authority and confidence. Muthukrishnan hails from Bodinayakanoor, Tamilnadu. He enrolled for a course on draftsmanship. It took him hardly 2 months to crack the Sri Chakra puzzle. One of his early researches revealed that in all ancient temples, the original measurements of the prakarams and the size of the idols have been retained. This helped permeate positive vibrations. That is why they say that visit to a temple would help acquire positive energy. Muthukrishnan traveled to Egypt to study the Pyramids and their angles. "One look at the Pyramids and I knew that my theory was right. I knew instantly that the angles of the Pyramids are the same as the angles of the nine triangles of the Sri Chakra", he says. The ancient Egyptians chose the angles of the triangle to form Pyramids. This he explains thus: They were aware that the pyramids give out bio-energy fields similar to those found in the Sri Chakra installed in the temples of Bharat. (The draftsman today earns his daily bread by offering advice to corporate houses and individuals on how they can work towards attaining positive energy).

14. Today, an IIT degree is held in the same reverence in the U.S. as one from MIT or Caltech, and India's extraordinary leadership in the software industry is the indirect result of Jawaharlal Nehru's faith in scientific education. And yet the roots of Indian science and technology go far deeper than Nehru.

I (Shashi Tharoor) was reminded of this yet again by a remarkable new book, ***Lost Discoveries***, by the American writer Dick Teresi. Teresi's book studies the ancient non-Western foundations of modern science, and while he ranges from the Babylonians and Mayans to Egyptians and other Africans, it is his references to India that caught my eye. And how astonishing those are! The Rig Veda asserted that gravitation held the universe together 24 centuries before the apple fell on Newton's head. The Vedic civilisation subscribed to the idea of a spherical earth at a time when everyone else, even the Greeks, assumed the earth was flat. By the Fifth Century A.D, Indians had calculated that the age of the earth was 4.3 billion years; as late as the 19th Century, English scientists believed the earth was a hundred million years old, and it is only in the late 20th Century that Western scientists have come to estimate the earth to be about 4.6 billion years old. If I were to focus on just one field in this column, it would be that of mathematics. India invented modern numerals (known to the world as"Arabic" numerals because the West got them from the Arabs, who learned them from us!). It was an Indian who first conceived of the zero, shunya; the concept of nothingness, shunyata, integral to Hindu and Buddhist thinking, simply did not exist in the West. The Sulba Sutras, composed between 800 and 500 B.C., demonstrate that India had Pythagoras' theorem before the great Greek was born, and a way of getting the square root of 2 correct to five decimal places. (Vedic Indians solved square roots in order to build sacrificial altars of the proper size.) Archaeologists also found a "ruler" made with lines drawn precisely 6.7 millimeters apart with an astonishing level of accuracy. The "Indus inch" was a measure in consistent use throughout the area. The Harappans also invented kiln -fired bricks, less permeable to rain and floodwater than the mud bricks used by other civilisations of the time. The bricks contained no straw or other binding material and so turned out to be usable 5,000 years later when a British contractor dug them up to construct a railway line between Multan and Lahore. And while they were made in 15 different sizes, the Harappan bricks were amazingly consistent: their length, width and thickness were invariably in the ratio of 4:2:1.

From an article by Shashi Tharoor in THE HINDU

15. ***Reuters Health*** has reported that many people turn to yoga to relieve stress, and new study findings suggest they're doing the right thing. U.S. researchers discovered that after a single session of yoga, levels of the stress hormone cortisol dropped, even in people who were trying yoga for the first time. Dr. George Brainard of the Center of Integrative Medicine of Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia and colleagues measured cortisol levels before and after a 50-minute yoga session. Brainard and his team found that cortisol levels decreased more after a session of yoga than after the rest period, even on the first day of practice. Further research will have to determine

whether the decrease in cortisol after yoga is sustained, and whether that hormonal change has a positive effect on health. "My suspicion is that the answer to all that may well be yes," Brainard said. The research is being presented this week in Philadelphia at the 85th Annual Meeting of The Endocrine Society.

Based on a despatch by Shri. Alison McCook, June 19, 2003.

16. The **Made in India Show** organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in Sri Lanka last month has generated business inquiries worth Rs. 495 crores. Over 130 Indian companies participated in the five-day exhibition. The Indian High Commission in Sri Lanka, Ceylon Chamber of Commerce, Ministry of Industries and the Ministry of Commerce & Consumer Affairs, Government of Sri Lanka supported it. The high point of the show was "Enterprise India" which showcased a varied range of consumer products from garments, textiles, to household products. A CII release said that the "Enterprise India Show" saw an overwhelming response from the Sri Lankan consumers. The visitor turnout was beyond expectation as it crossed the over sixty thousand mark. After the tremendous response received from the show, CII is planning to hold this event annually at Colombo, the release added.

Based on a report in *The Hindu*

17. In a significant development, India today (June 2) decided to stop taking bilateral aid from most countries, except a few major ones, and prepay Rs. 7,490 crore worth of external debt this year in the face of ballooning foreign exchange reserves, now at over $80 billion. "The Finance Ministry has decided to discontinue receiving aid from partners other than Japan, the United Kingdom, Germany, the United States, the European Commission and the Russian Federation," an official announcement said. This is a follow-up of the budget announcement, it said adding that smaller bilateral aid from 14 countries totalling Rs. 7490.77 crores would be prepaid. The 14 countries comprise the Netherlands, Canada, Sweden, Italy, Denmark, Belgium, Austria, Kuwait, Spain, Switzerland, Saudi Arabia, Australia, the Russian Federation, Czech and Slovak. India's total outstanding bilateral debt from 20 countries as on March 31, 2003, stood at Rs. 66,316.07 crore. Barring outstanding from Japan, Germany, the United States and France totalling Rs. 58,825.30 crore, the remaining Rs. 7490.77 crore worth of aid is being prepaid. There were no outstanding bilateral debt liabilities to the United Kingdom and Norway, the statement said.

PTI / THE HINDU (June 3, 2003)

18. As New York reeled under a severe power cut, the action of an Indian restaurant owner there earned much praise for traditional Indian Hospitality. When the lights failed Thursday (August 14) night, several restaurants downed their shutters. Those that remained open doubled or tripled their prices but the stranded had nowhere else to go. As ATM Machines did not work and credit cards became useless, those with a little cash had a tough time. But in the greedy jungle, 'MADRAS MAHAL' on Lexington Avenue owned by NITIN VYAS offered free meals to the hungry. More importantly, it provided FREE cold water when the going rate for a small drinking water bottle was 5 Dollars compared to usual 1 Dollar. The restaurant served rice with Punjabi dish 'Channa Battura' and tea that was much in demand. Even on Friday afternoon, there was a queue of hungry people outside the restaurant waiting for a free meal.

THE TIMES OF INDIA, Bangalore Edition, August 17, 2003.

19. According to Romain Rolland, Vivekananda had said that being itself a science, Vedanta gives an honoured place for all physical sciences, whether physical sciences accept Vedanta or not. A few physical scientists of the West respond to vedantic truths today. Nuclear scientist Schrodinger quotes the profound dictum of the Chandogya Upanishad (6th Chapter) which says, 'You are That (infinite Atman) – *Tat twam asi.'* So also, Professor J.B.S.Haldane, an agnostic British microbiologist who went to India and settled down, worked and died in Bhubaneswar, said in a lecture that when he went to Germany, he went to a microbiological laboratory of his friend. At the entrance he saw inscribed this Upanishadic message '*Tat twam asi* – You are That', and he (Haldane) said that if any one in the audience could understand this truth and live it, he would be happy, and he would consider his lecture there as rewarded.

From a 1981 lecture of Swami Ranganathananda in Chicago (Courtesy: An Advaita Ashrama, Calcutta, publication, THE APPROACH TO TRUTH IN VEDANTA).

20. Kids in school learn that the sun is 93 million miles from the earth and that the speed of light is 1,86,000 miles per second. Yoga may teach us about our Higher Self, but it can't supply this kind of information about physics or astronomy. Or can it? Professor Subhash Kak of Louisiana State University recently called my attention to a remarkable statement by Sayana, a fourteenth century Indian scholar. In his commentary on a hymn in the Rig Veda, the oldest and perhaps most mystical text ever composed in India, Sayana has this to say: "With deep respect, I bow to the sun, who travels 2,202 yojanas in half a nimesha." A yojana is about nine American miles; a nimesha is 16/75 of a second. Mathematically challenged readers, get out your calculators!

2,202 yojanas x 9 miles x 75/8 nimeshas = 1,85,794 m.p.s. Basically, **Sayana is saying that sunlight travels at 1,86,000 miles per second!** How could a Vedic scholar who died in 1387 A.D. have known the correct figure for the speed of light? If this was just a wild guess it's the most amazing coincidence in the history of science! The yoga tradition is full of such coincidences. **(*'Yoga at the speed of Light'* By Linda Johnsen, Courtesy *Yoga International*).**

21. In the year 2000, motorcycle makers of Bharat were a worried lot. A number of them had announced plans to launch dirt-cheap Chinese bikes, fearing that such dumped motorcycles would swamp the Indian market. The Confederation of Indian Industry and Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, which had lobbied vigorously to block the onslaught, say dumping by China is no longer an issue. But how did the miracle take place? To begin with, Indians beat the Chinese at their game of aggressive pricing. Three years ago, the entry-level price of Indian motorcycles was Rs.31,000, and there was talk of Chinese motorcycles being launched at Rs.25,000. Since then, Indian firms have brought down the entry-level price to Rs. 26,000. Monto's Chinese bike, the Cosmo Blaster, in contrast, is available for Rs. 30,000. Leading automobile companies like Bajaj Auto and LML had scouted the Chinese industry to source components but could not find anything worthwhile. Far from being annihilated by China, Indian manufacturers currently hold potential export orders worth $10 billion. Interestingly, Bajaj Auto now plans to produce a bike in China, with components supplied from India. "The Chinese are delighted with our quality and price," Bajaj Auto vice-president (business development and marketing) R L Ravichandran said. Moreover, the Chinese could not deliver quality products. According to Pankaj Gupta, director of the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers, Chinese products failed because of India's stricter emission norms. The same goes for tyres. On average, the life expectancy of a Chinese tyre is at least 20 per cent less than its Indian counterpart.

Based on a report in the REDIFF ON THE NET (August 9, 2003)

22. Meet Shri J.Sundaresan, 48, a professor in the Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, US. He has designed a T shirt that tells a physician all about the wearer's body temperature, blood pressure level, pulse rate, Oxygen level, etc., via a monitor attached to it. The T shirt is manufactured using cotton-polythene yarn, with optic fibre filaments criss-crossing the fabric. The tips of the optic fibre filament act as sensor spots. They measure and communicate the wearer's clinical particulars to an attached pocket size control box, which, in turn, passes on the data to the hospital monitor. The wearer too can read those on the monitor of the control box itself. Thus, a son

sitting in the US could read the blood pressure of his father in Bharat who wears the T shirt with the help of an internet connection. This way, the unique T shirt helps save lives by constantly monitoring the various body functions of patients. Sundaresan says he is now at work on developing a T shirt that accommodates a camera and a mike. TIME and NEWSWEEK have hailed his invention. Sundaresan is a native of Salem, Tamilnadu, Bharat.He did B.Tech at the Alagappa Chettiar College of Technology, Chennai. After his M.Tech, he did his Ph.D in US, where he lives now.

Based on a DINAMANI report on July 17, 2003.

23. A sustained public and political campaign by two small regional Australian towns has resulted in the 13-year-old son of an Indian doctor couple being granted a visa. Treating Shivam Agrawal's application for ministerial intervention as the rarest of rare cases, Australian Immigration Minister Amanda Vanstone has overruled an earlier decision by her department and granted visa to the Indian teenager. The Agrawals are overwhelmed by the public campaigns to keep them in Australia. Earlier the rural community living in and around Wellington and Dubbo in New South Wales was up in arms against an Australian Immigration Department decision to deny visa to Shivam Agrawal as he suffers from haemophilia. The non-extension of the Indian youngster's visa would have forced his parents, general practitioner Sunita and paediatrician Rajiv Agrawal, to leave their jobs as doctors in two public hospitals and return to India with Shivam. Such scenario enraged the residents of Wellington and Dubbo who already suffer from an acute shortage of competent medical staff in their rural community. The doctor couple is being referred to as "valued" doctors in the regional media. Australian Deputy Prime Minister John Anderson and the federal MP from Parkes, John Cobb, approached Immigration Minister Amanda Vanstone for extension of visa to young Agrawal. Various community groups, meanwhile, lodged signature campaigns supporting his endeavour. "The concern and support everyone has shown has been overwhelming," Sunita Agrawal told ***Dubbo Liberal Times*** after the decision was conveyed to her. "Patients have been asking me what is happening and offering to sign petitions," Dr. Sunita said. Support extended to her paediatrician husband was of a different hue. "They said they would chain me to a hospital bed if I tried to leave," Agrawal jocularly told reporters about his supporters' sentiments. "I have never seen such support for a family and this is further evidence of just how valued they are," Cobb told a local newspaper, ***Wellington Times***. The intensity of the campaign is gauged from the fact that all the schoolmates of Shivam, Shivi to his friends, signed a petition and submitted it to the local MP requesting him to get his visa extended.

(Based on an IANS report in The New Indian Express, November 1, 2003).

24.A. It was a three-nation affair. Philip of Paris (France) adopted Sudarshan of Jafna (Srilanka) as his son. Sudarshan married Aneus of Pondicherry (Bharat) in September 2003 in Paris before a registrar of marriages. On December 4, 2003, however, Philip (now Mahesh) performed their marriage in accordance with Hindu traditions at the Karthikeya temple in Thiruchendur in Tamilnadu, Bharat. Mahesh is a devotee of Karthikeya and is a regular annual visitor to the temple for the last three years **(DINAMANI Tamil Daily, December 6, 2003). B.** Carl Belle was the First Secretary at the Australian Embassy in Kolalumpur, Malaysia. His mother was seriously ill and the doctors gave her just 6 weeks. Carl took refuge in Hinduism and became Vadivela. He peformed the Kavadi vrarta with all devotion at a Karthikeya temple in Malaysia. His mother lived for another 3 years. He renamed his daughter as Valli, the consort of Karthikeya and his son as Ganesan. Australian authorities gave him the choice: 'Religion or Job?' Vadivela gave up his job rather than Hinduism. A contented man, now he lives in Adilaide, Australia . ***(Source: A social worker based in Sydney).***

25. Smt. Linda Johnsen quotes Professor Subhash Kak of Louisiana State University (USA) in her book ***Yoga at the speed of Light*** and writes: "The **Surya Siddhanta** is the oldest surviving astronomical text in the Indian tradition. Some Western scholars date it to perhaps the fifth or sixth century A.D., though the text itself claims to represent a tradition much, much older. It explains that the earth is shaped like a ball, and states that at the very opposite side of the planet from India is a great city where the sun is rising at the same time it sets in India. In this city, the Surya Siddhanta claims, lives a race of siddhas, or advanced spiritual adepts. If you trace the globe of the earth around to the exact opposite side of Inoia, you'll find Mexico. Is it possible that the ancient Indians were well aware of the great sages/astronomers of Central America many centuries before Columbus discovered America? Does this sound unlikely? Yoga Sutra 3:26-28 states that through, samyama (concentration, meditation, and unbroken mental absorption) on sun, moon, and pole star, we can gain knowledge of the planets and stars".

Courtesy: Yoga International, English Bi Monthly

26. A team led by Shri. N.D.Hari Dass of the Chennai-based Institute of Mathematical Sciences (IMSc) has put together Bharat's fastest academic computer **KABRU** (name of a Himalayan peak so far unclimbed). KABRU has a sustained computing speed of 951 gigaflops (that is, upto a peak of 1,382 billion calculations per second).In June 2004, it will vie for a ranking in the global "Top 500" list of the world's fastest supercomputers. Says Prof. Hari Dass, "One of the greatest challenges in Theoretical Physics is to

understand what constitutes particles like protons and neutrons." KABRU is to probe this mystery. This supercomputer has been made at a cost of Rs. 2.5 crores – a mere fraction of what supercomputers of this pedigree would cost if one were to import it. If KABRU makes the climb to the "Top 500", it will be the third India-based supercomputer in that list. The other two are, PARAM PADMA (speed: 594 gigaflops) by Pune's C-DAC (Rank 258) and an IBM cluster (1,105 gigaflops) by Bangalore-based Intel (Rank 105).

Based on a report by Shri. Anand Parthasarathy in THE HINDU of April 28, 2004.

27. Approaching 60, **Shri.Virendra 'Sam' Singh** is full of energy. Just the other day, he made the 100-km rib-cracking journey from Delhi on a monsoon-ravaged road to bring 35 sewing machines in his Toyota Qualis. They are meant for his Pardada Pardadi Vocational School, Bichaula, near Anupshahr in Bulandshahr, Uttar Pradesh, Bharat, where he was born and where nothing much had changed since he left. Many of the 350 village girls' lives have changed since Singh's return. He has set up the school for them. Why not boys? "If you teach a girl, you teach a family," he says. These are the daughters of landless farmers. If they were not coming to his school, they would either be stealing grass or firewood. It all began three years ago. His two daughters had been married. His career at DuPont had peaked (He was head of DuPont's South Asia operations). He returned to his motherland after 35 years in the US. The girls are trained in stitching, weaving and chikan work for a year, then they are taught marketing skills. Singh's teachers come from all over the country — from Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Gujarat. They are skilled and committed to his social experiment. The girls get breakfast, lunch, tea and snacks. They get uniforms, and bicycles when they grow up. Also, each girl gets Rs 10 a day and the money is put into a fixed deposit. "A 10-year-old girl will have about Rs 1,00,000 in her account when she is 21. If she leaves school early, she will still get her money," he says. So far he has spent Rs 1.2 crore. His village is richer by that.

Based on a report in THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS of August 18, 2003

28. TIME Asia magazine features 38-year-old Gautam Goswami, District Collector, Patna, Bihar, Bharat, as one among the '20 Asian Heroes' in its issue dated October 11, 2004. When flash floods hit Bihar in July, Goswami coordinated for a month a massive relief effort that involved the government, Army and international aid agencies. He used to get up at 4.30 in the morning to monitor the distribution of relief materials. He works on till 11 in the night. A physician by training, he treats anyone who is ill at any time of the day or

night. The number of such beneficiaries on some days would be 100 or more. Goswami spends half of his salary in helping the poor. Though transferred 12 times during his 15-year career, he is steadfast in his uprightness. Goswami was put in charge of the ballot in 1999. He barricaded Patna, so that gunmen in cars couldn't enter the city. He set up telephone lines for citizens to call in with complaints. In 1999 and 2004, with Goswami as the overseer, Patna had the two fairest elections it had seen in years.

29. A clause in the Education Reform Act of 1988 and the new education Bill stipulate that all state schools (in Britain) should provide religious education and a "daily act of collective worship, wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character" (Most of the 7,390 voluntary schools in Britain are run by the Church of England, Roman Catholics, Jews and Methodists). Alarmed that their children would be taught only about Christianity, some Sikh families decided to take matters into their own hands. Funded by Sikhs in Britain, Europe and the United States and run by the Punjab-based Namaskar Organization, Guru Nanak Sikh College in Hayes, west London, aims to take Sikh Children back to their roots. The children begin their day at 8.30 a.m. with prayers from the Guru Granth Sahib and *kirtans.* The key word in the school is discipline. "I have been teaching for more than 30 years. This is the first time I have seen children aged 12 or less leading an assembly of 400 students. It's truly amazing", says George Hamilton who teaches the primary sections. Another feature that sets it apart is that there is no fixed fee. "Everybody pays according to his ability", says Principal Rajinder Singh Sandhu. For instance, Satwinder Singh Dhillon, whose children attend the school, is paying for their fees in kind by paving the premises and helping in the kitchen.

Based on a report by Sushri. Nirupama Subramaian
in the INDIA TODAY (English) of April 30, 1991.

30. India has consolidated its position as the **world's fourth largest economy** in Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) at $2,778 billion behind US, China and Japan. The Purchasing Power Parity is arrived at by pricing all goods and services at US prices and treating America as standard, instead of converting Rupees into dollars at foreign exchange rates. According to the World Bank's World Development Indicators 2004, released on April 23 and based on 2002 figures, the PPP of United States is put at $10,414 billion, followed by China at $5,792 billion and Japan at $3,481 billion. Germany is placed fifth at $2,226 billion, according to the report. In the G-7, only two — US and Japan — are ahead of India. The PPP figures for the other five members of the G-7 are: Germany $2226 billion; France $1,609 billion; the United Kingdom $1,574 billion; Italy $1,510 billion and $Canada 907 billion. The PPP

of Russia (which makes it G-8) has improved to $1,165 billion, reflecting the rapid improvernent in the Russian economy.

INDIAN EXPRESS, April 24, 2004.

31.A. Out of the seven lucky gods that the Japanese worship, three have Indian origins. Daikokuten the Japanese god of wealth and prosperity, originated from the Indian god of death, Mahakala. Benzaiten (benten), the only woman among the seven gods, originated from saraswati, the goddess of music, fine arts, eloquence and literature. And Bishamonten, the Japanese god for doctors, soldiers and priests, has its origins in India where he was known as Viasravana, a Buddhist missionary (Information obtained by the staff reporter of **THE HINDU** (June 11, 2004) at the Numismatics Exhibition of Japanese Coins and Currency held in Chennai). The coins were the collection of **Shri. Sathish Kumar**, a young software marketing executive based in Osaka, Japan. **B.** "I was having a cup of coffee here in my university cafeteria, Ben Gurion University. Beer Sheva, Israel. I was appraoched by a local Jew in mid-twenties. The first word he uttered was Namaste. He told me he has been spreading the message of peace and love through ISKCON movement. He himself has changed his name borrowed from Sanskrit literature. It was a pleasant and amazing surprise to find someone in this remote place selling the literature of Bhakthi Vedanta. He said he is spreading vegetarian food habits through this movement among the locals. The pamphlet is in Hebrew. He was also selling a book on Indian food styles based on vegetables and spices alone, this again in Hebrew. It contains an article on how the food habit helps to cultivate good habits linking it to the Vedantic philosophy." (Anecdote courtesy: **Shri. T. Rajagopalan;** vishwa_samvad yahoogroup). **C. Shravya**, a Class VIII girl of Indian origin studying in Bishop Middle School in Florida, USA, recently bagged the coveted first prize in a contest organized for junior scientists at Florida. Her discovery was a gene which when fed into fruits like orange or lemon, will help them successfully withstand the heavy winter snowfall. This news caused so much of a thrill that one media outfit named its satellite **KEREMANE**, after a village near Sringeri in Karnataka, Bharat, that the girl hails from. **Dr.Seetharam (VSK, Karnataka).**

All anecdotes courtesy: ***PANCHAAMRITAM***
(panchaamritam-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

INDIA, MOTHER OF US ALL.

WILL DURANT,
American Philosopher

Annexure – V

A PAKISTANI JOURNALIST ADMIRES HINDUSTAN'S EXCELLENCE

Masood Hasan, the writer, is a Lahore-based columnist and a well-known journalist.

The sight of Indian actress Urmilla on the rooftops of the old city of Lahore is a sight for sore eyes anytime of the day. This week another 270 delegates from India among which are Naseeruddin Shah and Shabana Azmi, are expected to cross over into Pakistan. As both countries take a series of steps, gingerly to start with, there is just that little light at the end of the dark and endless tunnel that has held us "prisoners of our own device" – as The Eagles put it in the famous number Hotel California. Will these measures lead to peace is a question for which ever Tauqir Zia has no answers. All we can do is hope, pray and contribute in whatever way we can to normalize relations and bury the many hatchets that we have brandished for the last half-century.

Travelling last week on the Wazirabad-Sambrial road towards Sialkot, the potholes and bumps on that narrow ribbon strip road began to revive memories of long forgotten journeys made on that same road. I could have, after a few violent and rib-shaking miles, sworn these holes and craters were the same when one was in Kindergarten. Nothing seemed to have changed except that the dust was thicker, the pollution dismal and the people in numbers too large to comprehend. Perhaps in most of India the situation is not very much different and our much-touted smirking observations that India has huge problems might have given us years of self-induced smugness, but things across the divide are changing at a speed that baffles the mind. Some years ago, an Indian said to a Pakistani, "It is true we are both in the gutter. The difference is, we are looking at the stars. You are looking at the gutter."

Many of us associate India's new progress with its IT revolution and it is partly true. Indian companies like **Moser-Baer** located in an equally unknown Noida are now the **world's third largest optical media manufacturer** and the lowest-cost producer of CD-Recorders. Exports? Only Rs. 1,000 crore – Indian rupees I might add. This firm sells data-storage products to seven of the world's top 10 CD-R producers. There is another unknown. **Tandon Electronics. Its hardware exports are Rs. 40,000 crore.**

There is more depressing data, all of it quite true and impartial. 15 of the world's major automobile makers are obtaining components from Indian companies. This business fetched India $375 million last year and in 2003

the number will be $1.5 billion. In half a decade, they will reach $15 billion. **Hero Honda** with 17 lakh motrocycleas a year is now the **largest motorcycle manufacturer in the world.** The prestigious UK automaker, Rover is marketing **1 lakh Indica car** made by Tata in Europe, under, wait a minute, its own name. Bharat Forge has the world's largest single-location forging facility. It produces 1.2 lakh tonnes per annum and its clients include Honda, Toyota and Volvo among others. **Asian Paints** now owns 22 production facilities over 5 continents and is the **market leader in 11 of these countries.** Hindustan Inks has the world's largest single stream fully integrated ink plant of 1-lakh tonnes per annum capacity and 100% owned subsidiaries in USA and Austria. **Essel Propack** is the world's largest laminated tube manufacturer with presence in 11 countries and a **global marketing share of 25%** already. Ford has just presented its Gold World Excellence Award to India's Cooper Tyres.

Other industries are winning equally prestigious awards all the time. While on cars, Aston Martin has contracted prototyping its luxury sports car to an Indian-based designer and is set to produce the cheapest Aston Martin ever. **Suzuki, which makes Maruti in India has decided to make India its manufacturing, export and research hub outside Japan.** Hyundai India is set to become the global small car hub for the Korean giant and will produce 25,000 Santros to start with. By 2010 it is set to supply half a million cars to Hyundai Korea. HMI and Ford India are leaping ahead, posting astonishing results in the global markets from Brazil to China.

The **Indian pharmaceutical industry** is blazing ahead too. At $6.5 billion and growing at 8-10% annually, **it is the 4th largest pharmaceutical industry in the world.** Its exports are over $2 billion. India is among the top five bulk drug makers and at home, the local industry has edged out the MNCs whose share of 75% in the market is down to 35%. Trade of medicinal plants has crossed Rs. 4,000 crore already.

As for technology, **India is among the three countries** that have built **supercomputers on their own**. The other two are USA and Japan. Not a bad club to be in, is it? India is among six countries that launch satellites and do so even for Germany and Belgium. **India's INSAT** is among the **world's largest domestic satellite communication systems.** Here are more depressing facts. **India** is one of the **world's largest diamond** cutting and polishing **centers. About 9 out of 10 stones sold anywhere** in the world, **pass through India**. With China, India's arch enemy, trade has grown by 104% in the past year and in the first 5 months of 2003.

India has amassed a surplus in trade close to half a million dollars. In the recession-hit West, India exports are up by 19% this year and the country's **foreign exchange reserves** stand at an **all-time high of over $100 billion.**

India is dishing out aid to 11 countries, pre-paying their debt and **loaned IMF $300 million!!** And since we think banning fashion shows is the way ahead, it might be interesting to know that Walt-Mart sources $1 billion worth of goods from India – half its apparel, GAP about $600 million and Hilfiger $100 million.

These success stories are not propaganda and haven't happened overnight or by good fortune. The Indians have the same bureaucracy and many of the politicians simply play politics, the infrastructure creaks and poverty abounds, corruption flourishes and there are huge pockets of inefficiency and walls that block meaningful progress. Sure, it has an army that is not bursting with power-grabbing and subjugating its people every few years, but India's success can no longer be denied and the gap between us and them grows wider by, if I may use my childhood idiom, leaps and bounds.

What makes them tick? The answers are not simple and require great space and analysis by minds far superior to that of a weekly hack, but Cost and Brains are two factors. Add to that, a determination to rise above what faces you everyday, a vision of the stars as the man aid. India provides **IT services at one-tenth the price**. No wonder more and more companies are basing their operations in India. An **Indian MBA costs $5,000**. An **American MBA $120,000**. Development of an **automobile** in the **US costs $1 billion. In India, less than half**. A **cataract operation** costs **$1500 in the US**. In **India, $12**. Bypass in the US anywhere up to Rs. 6 lakhs. In India, it is Rs. 40,000. **Over 70 MNCs** have setup **R&D facilities in India** in the past five years. **100 of the Fortune 500 are now present in India vs 33 in China.** Intel's Indian staff strength has gone up from 10 to 1,000 in four years. GE with a $60 million invested in India employs 1,600 researchers, while it has only 100 in China. With better systems comes efficiency. The turnaround time in Indian ports is down to 4 days from 10 and its telecom infrastructure in 1999 provided a bandwidth of 155 Mbps. Today, it is **75,000 times more** and with fibre optic networks in 300 cities, it will change the face of business. Mobile phones are growing by about 1.5 million a month. **Long distance rates** are **down by two-thirds** in five years and by 80% for data transmission. The facts go on and on.

So what are the answers? They lie in the way we look at things, our discourse, our vision, our ability ahead and our desire to genuinely put our country on the right road. The people of the subcontinent are naturally talented and bright. When will we unleash the great potential of our people that lies dormant, crushed by the forces of evil that stop our progress for their personal agendas?

Courtesy: THE NEWS INTERNATIONAL (Pakistani Newspaper)
DECEMBER 14, 2003

Annexure – VI

EINSTEIN INSPIRED BY GITA

"The importance of spiritual organisations and institutions can by no means be underestimated in the matter of building and shaping a country, or for that matter, the society. Sometimes, attempts are made to depict the spiritualism as an antithesis to scientific thinking. However, if one reads what Albert Einstein, a scientist of the highest order said, it would be evident as to how shallow, such an approach, is. He observed, "I have made the Gita and Sanskrit Literature, the main source of my inspiration and guidance for the purpose of scientific investigations and formation of my theories". The contribution of such institutions in the field of character building and preaching of morals, irrespective of the religions, to which they belong, harldy needs any emphasis"

(From a judgement delivered by Justice L. Narasimha Reddy of Andhra Pradesh High court on December 29, 2004)

HOW PATANJALI INFLUENCED T.S. ELIOT

That Thomas Sterns Eliot (T.S.Eliot) was the literary dictator of the 20th Century is just a commonplace now. Consequent on his early exposure to Indic thought through Edwing Arnold's *The Light of Asia,* Eliot resolved to go on a passage to India and imbibe deep the native spring of the *Vedas.* At Harvard, Eliot took four courses in Sanskrit and Pali and an advanced course in "Philosophical Sanskrit". He absorbed the Mantric tradition from the *Vedas* and the *Upanishads* that assisted him in developing what he calls "the auditory imagination which helps in building up through rhythm an incantatory effect that penetrates "far below the conscious levels of thought and feeling, invigorating every word." Imagery and dialectic are clearly drawn from the Indic texts, which fashioned his outlook and faith. The moral implications of the doctrine of karma find a powerful evocation in Eliot's *Murder in the Cathedral.* The concept of the nature of true action that does not show any concern for the fruits of action is quite a rendition from the *Bhagavad Gita.* In "The Dry Salvages" there are explicit echoes form the Gita. On the "Tradition and Individual Talent" essay, the influence of Patanjali's *Yogasutra* is unmistakable. The central idea of the *Yogasutras* is the attainment of concentration through the separation of the body from the mind. No wonder T.S. Eliot said, **"Their (Indian Philosophers') subtleties make most of the great European Philosophers look like schoolboys"** *(in After Strange Gods).*

From a book review in The HINDU of January 25, 2005 by Shri. M.S Nagarajan (The book: T.S. ELOT AND INDIC TRADITIONS : Author: Shri. Cleo McNelly Kearns; Samvad India Foundation, Rs. 450

Annexure – VII

HOW VIVEKANANDA TRANSFORMED ROCKFELLER

U.S. industrialist and world's wealthiest man, called on Swami Vivekananda who was then resting for a while at a house at Chicago, after going through his two strenuous and triumphant lecture programmes at Detroit and elsewhere.

Swamiji made Rockefeller understand that "he was only a channel and that his duty was to do good to the world - that God has given him all his wealth in order that he might have an opportunity to help and do good to people". About a week later, when Rockfeller met Swamiji again the second time, he told Swamiji of his plan to donate an enormous sum of money towards the financing of a public institution. Three year hence (1897) Rockefeller devoted himself completely to philanthropy. He spoke his philosophy as follows: "There is more to life than the accumulation of money. Money is only a trust in one's hand. To use it improperly is a great sin. The best way to prepare for the end of life is to live for others. This is what I am trying to do."

Rockefeller is believed to have given away some 550 million dollars in his lifetime, including major endowments to the University of Chicago (1890) the Rockfeller Institute for Medical Research (1901), and the General Education Board (1902). He also established the Rockefeller Foundation in 1913, to promote well-being of mankind throughout world. His and his son's benefactions totalled more than $ 3,00,000,000, (Rs. 13,500 crore).

(from 'VIVEKANANDA: HIS GOSPEL OF MAN MAKING'; compiled and edited by Swami Jyotirmayananda, pages 497-498)

THIS AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGIST RESEARCHES ON THE LIFE SAVING AGNIHOTRA

On the night of December 2-3, 1984, S.L.Kushwaha (45), a teacher living in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, Bharat, started performing his usual Agnihotra and in 20 miniutes the symptoms of MIC gas poisoning were gone. Agnihotra is the smallest form of Vedic Homa (sacrifice). This sacrificial fire is based on the biorhythms of Nature. American psychologist Barry Rathner conducting research in Agnihotra at Pune University says, "Agnihotra has made many conquests so far. Today, there is not a language spoken on earth that doesn't number practitioners of Agnihotra." People in several countries began experiencing increases of harvest up to 800 percent with Agnihotra.

Based on a report in THE HINDU of April 7, 1985.

Annexure – VIII

WHEN CHINESE FOUND THEIR SAVIOUR IN 'OM'!

Swami Vivekananda was on his way to America in July 1893. His ship was berthed in Hong Kong, for a few days. Swamiji went to Canton, inside China, 80 miles away. As a monk, his earnest desire was to visit a Chinese monastery. Unfortunately, these monasteries were forbidden ground for foreigners. What could be done? When he asked the interpreter, he was told that a visit was impossible, but this served only to intensify his desire: he must see a Chinese monastery! He said to the interpreter, "Suppose a foreigner should go there, what then?" and received the reply, "Why, Sir, they would be sure to maltreat him!" The Swami thought that if the monks knew him to be a Hindu sannyasi, they would not molest him. So he persisted , and finally induced the interpreter and his fellow passengers to tread "forbidden ground" saying laughingly, "Come, let us see if they kill us!" But they had not gone far when the interpreter cried out, "Away! Away gentlemen! They are coming, and they are infuriated!" Two or three men with clubs in their hands were approaching rapidly. Frightened at their menacing appearance, all but the Swami and the interpreter took to their heels. When even the latter was on the point of fleeing, the Swami seized him by the arm and said with a mile, "My good man, you must not run away before you tell me the Chinese word for Indian Yogi". Having been told this, the Swami loudly called out that he was an Indian Yogi. And lo, the word for "Yogi" acted like magic! The angry expression of the men changed to that of deep reverence and they fell at his feet. They rose, stretched out their joined palms in most respectful salutation, and then said something in a loud voice, one word of which the Swami understood to be "Kabatch". He thought it was undoubtedly the Indian word meaning amulet; but to be sure of what they meant, he shouted a question to the interpreter, who stood at a safe distance, confounded at these strange developments – as well he might be, for, never in all his experience had he witnessed such a spectacle like this. For an explanation he said, "Sir, they want amulets to ward off evil spirits and unholy influences. They desire your protection." The Swami was taken aback for a moment. He did not

believe in charms. Then he took a sheet of paper from his pocket, divided it into several pieces and wrote on them the word "OM" in Sanskrit, the most holy word of the Vedas and the symbol of the highest truth. He gave them the pieces of paper, and the men touching them to their heads, led him into the monastery.

In the more isolated portions of the building he was shown many Sanskrit manuscripts, written, strange to say, in old Bengali characters. And then it occurred to him that when he had visited the temple dedicated to the first Buddhist Emperor he had been struck with unmistakable resemblance between the faces of the Blessed One's five hundred followers and those of Bengalis. These evidences, as also his past study of Chinese Buddhism, convinced him that Bengal and China had at one time been in close communication, that there must be a great influx into China of Bengal Bhikkhus (Buddhist monks), who brought to that distant country the gospel of the Blessed One, and that Indian thought had influenced Chinese civilization to a significant extent.

(From the book, 'THE LIFE OF SWAMI VIVEKANANDA BY HIS EASTERN AND WESTERN DISCIPLES', Page No: 397)

Quotes about India

- India is the cradle of the human race, the birthplace of human speech, the mother of history, the grandmother of legend and the great grandmother of tradition.

Mark Twain

- If there is one place on the face of earth where all dreams of living men have found a home from the very earliest days when man began the dream of existence, it is India.

French scholar ***Romain Rolland.***

- India conquered and dominated China culturally for 20 centuries without ever having to send a single soldier across her border.

Hu Shih. *(Former Chinese ambassador to USA)*

Q. Who is the co-founder of Sun Microsystems?

A. **Vinod Khosla**

Q. Who is the creator of Pentium chip (needs no introduction as 90% of the today's computers run on it)?

A. **Vinod Dahm**

Q. Who is the third richest man in the world?

A. According to the latest report on Fortune magazine, it is **AZIM PREMJI**, the CEO of Wipro Industries. The Sultan of Brunei is at 6th position now.

Q. Who is the founder and creator of Hotmail (Hotmail is world's No.1 web based email program)?

A. **Sabeer Bhatia**

Q. Who is the president of AT&T-Bells Labs (AT&T-Bell Labs is the creator of program languages such as C, C++, Unix to name a few)?

A. **Arun Netravalli**

Q. Who is the GM of Hewlett Packard?

A. **Rajiv Gupta**

Q. Who is the new MTD (Microsoft Testing Director) of Windows 2000, responsible to iron out all initial problems?

A. **Sanjay Tejwrika.**

Q. Who are the Chief Execuitves of CitiBank, Mckensey & Stanchart?

A. **Victor Menezes, Rajat Gupta, and Rana Talwar.**

Indians are the wealthiest among all ethnic groups in America, even faring better than the whites and the natives.
There are 3.22 millions of Indians in USA (1.5% of population).
YET,

38% of doctors in USA are Indians.
12% scientists in USA are Indians.
36% of NASA scientists are Indians.
34% of Microsoft employees are Indians.
28% of IBM employees are Indians
17% of INTEL scientists are Indians.
13% of XEROX employees are Indians.

These facts were recently published in a German magazine, which deals in WORLD HISTORY FACTS ABOUT INDIA:

1. India never invaded any country in her last 10,000 years of history.

2. India invented the Number system. Aryabhatta invented 'zero'.

3. The world's first University was established in Takshila in 700 BC. More than 10,500 students from all over the world studied more than 60 subjects. The University of Nalanda built in the 4th century BC was one of the greatest achievements of ancient India in the field of education.

4. According to the Forbes magazine, Sanskrit is the most suitable language for computer software.

5. Ayurveda is the earliest school of medicine known to humans.

6. Although Western media portray modern images of India as poverty stricken and underdeveloped through political corruption, India was once the richest empire on earth.

7. The art of navigaiton was born in the river Sindh 5,000 years ago. The very word 'Navigation' is derived from the Sanskrit word *NAVGATIH*.

8. The value of **pi** was first calculated by Budhayana, and he explained the concept of what is now known as Pythagorean Theorem. British scholars have last year (1999) officially published that Budhayan works dates to the 6th Century, which is long before the European mathematicians.

9. Algebra, trignometry and calculus came from India. Quadratic equations were by Sridharacharya in the 11th Century; the largest numbers the Greek and the Romans used were 106 whereas Indians used numbers as big as 10^{53}.

10. According to the Gemmological Institute of America, up until 1896, India was the only source of diamonds to the world.

11. USA and IEEE has proved what has been a century-old suspicion amongst academics that the pioneer of wireless communication was Professor Jagdeesh Bose and not Marconi.

12. The earliest reservoir and dam for irrigation was built in Saurashtra.

13. Chess was invented in India.

14. Sushruta is the father of surgery. 2,600 years ago he and health scientists of his time conducted surgeries like ceasareans, cataract, fractures and urinary stones. Usage of anaesthesia was well known in ancient India.

15. When many cultures in the world were only nomadic forest dwellers over 5,000 years ago, Indians established Harappan culture in Sindhu Valley (Indus Valley Civilisation) or better, the Saraswati River Civilization.

16. The place value system, the decimal system was developed in India in 100 BC.

From the Internet